

# COVID-19 Situation Report #33

Reporting period 12 November - 24 November 2020

## Global Overview

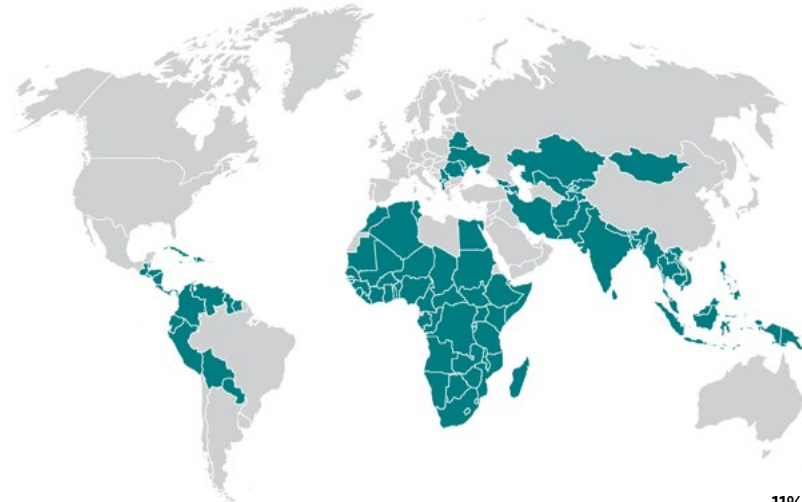
<b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b> <b>1,393,305</b>	<b>TOTAL CASES:</b> <b>58,900,547</b>
<i>as of 24 November - Source: WHO</i>	

At the Paris Peace Forum, donors pledged [US\\$360 million to COVAX](#), the Vaccines Pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance announced it has raised [a total US\\$2 billion towards the effort to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines](#) for low- and middle-income economies. At the 73rd World Health Assembly, WHO's 194 Member States adopted [a resolution to strengthen preparedness for health emergencies](#) such as COVID-19 while G20 leaders in Riyadh committed to [ensure affordable and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines](#) through the ACT-Accelerator and COVAX. G20 Health Ministers acknowledged the role played by the Global Fund in supporting countries to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 derailing progress on HIV, TB and malaria and [encouraged the Global Fund to continue using funding flexibilities to support COVID-19 responses in countries](#).

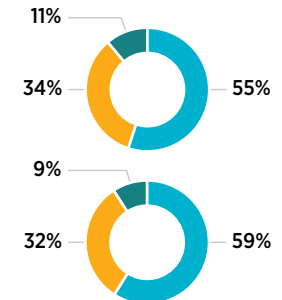
Following the [Pfizer and BioNTech announcement](#) made on 9 November, biotech company Moderna reported that its [mRNA-based vaccine was more than 94% effective](#) at preventing COVID-19. The University of Oxford and AstraZeneca said their [COVID-19 vaccine was up to 90% effective](#) in a late-stage trial. New research revealed [COVID-19 reinfection is unlikely for at least 6 months](#). WHO recommended [against the use of remdesivir](#) in COVID-19 patients. WHO warned the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the gaps in immunization coverage in Africa, putting millions of children at risk to a host of infectious diseases.

## Global Fund Response: At a Glance

- ▶ Total funds approved to date: **US\$814.9 million**
- ▶ Countries receiving Global Fund support for COVID-19: **106** countries and **13** multicountry programs
- ▶ Total funds raised to date: **US\$230 million**
- ▶ Fundraising target: An additional **US\$5 billion** over 12 months



- ▶ **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
- ▶ **How countries are using grant flexibilities\*:**
  - ▶ **59%:** Reinforcing national COVID-19 response
  - ▶ **32%:** Mitigating COVID-19 impact on HIV, TB and malaria programs
  - ▶ **9%:** Urgent improvements in health and community systems



\* NOTE: Percentages based on data from 15 countries which cover more than 50% of the total amount of grant flexibilities.

# Global Fund Response In Depth

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\$814.9 million** to support the COVID-19 response across **106** countries<sup>1</sup> and **13** multicountry programs<sup>2</sup> through the COVID-19 Response Mechanism and grant flexibilities. 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.

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. More than **US\$230 million** has been raised so far, and more funds are urgently needed to avoid a critical funding gap in the world's poorest countries.

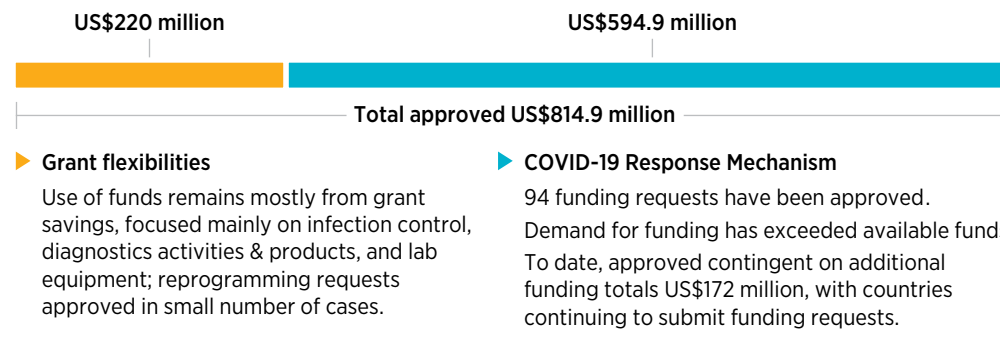
As part of the global response to COVID-19, the Global Fund is working with health leaders, partners and governments to ensure the global response to COVID-19 includes lessons learned from the fight against HIV, TB and malaria: protect human rights and address stigma and discrimination, particularly 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 tests, treatments and vaccines once available. As part of the ACT-Accelerator, 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.

<sup>1</sup> Number of countries receiving Global Fund support for COVID-19 is down from 107 to 106 as Turkmenistan has found alternative sources to fund earlier approvals.

<sup>2</sup> Number of multicountry programs receiving Global Fund support for COVID-19 is down from 14 to 13 as Multicountry Africa ECSA-HC program has not been fully endorsed by Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM).

## Funding Approved



*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.

# Global Fund Response In Depth

**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)
- ▶ **46** countries have purchased PPEs on wambo.org

## 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 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](#). The Global Fund is supporting countries and partners to develop and implement national testing strategies using a combination of PCR and Ag RDT tests.

- ▶ **US\$117 million** of COVID-19 Response Mechanism funds have been allocated for the provision of diagnostics tests. To date, **4.2** million requisitions for diagnostics tests (PCR and Ag RDT) have been placed across a total of **78** countries, including:
  - ▶ **2.3 million** requisitions have been placed for automated PCR diagnostic tests across **78** countries
  - ▶ **1.9 million** requisitions have been placed for Ag RDT tests across **13** countries

## 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 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:

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.

### ▶ Diagnostics Pillar update:

- ▶ **50 million** PCR tests have been made available to enhance testing in low- and middle-income (LMICs).
- ▶ The ACT-Accelerator Diagnostics Pillar has secured **120 million** affordable, quality COVID-19 rapid tests for low- and middle-income countries, but the Diagnostics Pillar only has enough funding to purchase 16 million of those tests.
- ▶ Over 50 diagnostic tests are currently being evaluated.

### ▶ Therapeutics Pillar update:

- ▶ Access to dexamethasone to treat severe COVID-19 cases has been expedited through an Emergency Use Listing (EUL) procedure, publication of treatment guidelines, and establishment of a stockpile for emergency use. Lifesaving dexamethasone treatments are being rolled out.
- ▶ Manufacturing capacities are reserved for scale-up of monoclonal antibodies.
- ▶ 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.

### ▶ Health Systems Connector Pillar update:

- ▶ The Health Systems Connector (HSC) aims to support countries on key health systems enablers as well as be the vehicle to make oxygen and personal protective equipment available as high priority commodities, especially in low and low-middle-income countries (LMICs). Systems requirements for delivery of COVID-19 tools have been mapped in four out of six world regions.
- ▶ **US\$200 million** worth of personal protective equipment (PPE) has been procured for LMICs.

# Global Fund Response In Depth

## ▶ ACT-Accelerator funding update:

Out of the US\$38 billion needed, just **US\$5.1 billion** has so far been committed to the ACT-Accelerator (through the Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics pillars and the Health Systems Connector) and **US\$5 billion** committed to COVAX.

**As of 23 November 2020, US\$4.3 billion** is needed to accelerate immediate progress, with a further **US\$23.9 billion** required in 2021, if tools are to be deployed across the world as they become available. Now is the pivotal moment to move fast for the mass rollout of these tools. Manufacturing capacity needs to be rapidly reserved, regulatory pathways accelerated, and delivery systems secured. All of this must happen now to avoid long delays in future and corresponding delays to the end of the crisis, but the urgent financing gap threatens the world's ability to tackle the virus. The [ACT-Accelerator Commitment Tracker](#) provides details on total commitments to date.

## Diagnostics pillar:

The Diagnostics Pillar requires total funding of US\$6 billion. To date, **US\$675 million** has been raised. The Diagnostics Pillar total gap is **US\$5.3 billion**, of which over **US\$1.1 billion** is needed urgently to:

- ▶ **Accelerate the diagnostic innovation needed to rebuild lives and restore economies** by driving development of transformative, low-cost self-tests and digital solutions (US\$146 million);
- ▶ **Catalyze equitable deployment** by ensuring countries, businesses and people can take up these products effectively (US\$218 million);
- ▶ **Support countries that cannot shoulder the costs alone** by providing procurement funding (US\$761 million).

Beyond March 2021, the focus will be on making a mass-produced, US\$0.50 test available to everyone, everywhere, with 500 million tests deployed to LMICs by the end of 2021.

## Therapeutics Pillar:

The Therapeutics Pillar requires a total of US\$6.6 billion through end-2021. To date, **US\$460 million** has been raised. The total funding gap is **US\$6.1 billion**, of which **US\$730 million** is needed immediately. The Therapeutics Pillar investment case beyond March 2021 is built to enable flexible support for R&D, market preparation, and deployment at-scale for any therapeutics assets with positive clinical data.

## Health Systems Connector:

The Health Systems Connector requires a total of US\$9.5 billion. To date, **US\$302 million** has been raised. The Health Systems Connector total funding gap is **US\$9.1 billion**, of which **US\$1.7 billion** is needed to facilitate access to PPE and oxygen. As country readiness is an absolute prerequisite to the equitable scale-up of other COVID-19 tools, **US\$89 million** is needed urgently to support these health systems activities.

## Additional Resources:

- ▶ [ACT-Accelerator Commitment Tracker](#)
- ▶ [Chairs' Summary of the 2nd Meeting of the ACT-A Facilitation Council](#)
- ▶ [Urgent Priorities & Financing Requirements at 10 November 2020](#)
- ▶ [ACT-A Status Report & Plan](#)
- ▶ [ACT-A Economic Investment Case and Financing Requirements](#)
- ▶ [ACT-A Diagnostics Partnership Investment Case](#)
- ▶ [ACT-A Therapeutics Partnership Investment Case](#)
- ▶ [ACT-A Vaccines Pillar \(COVAX\)](#)

# Global Fund Response

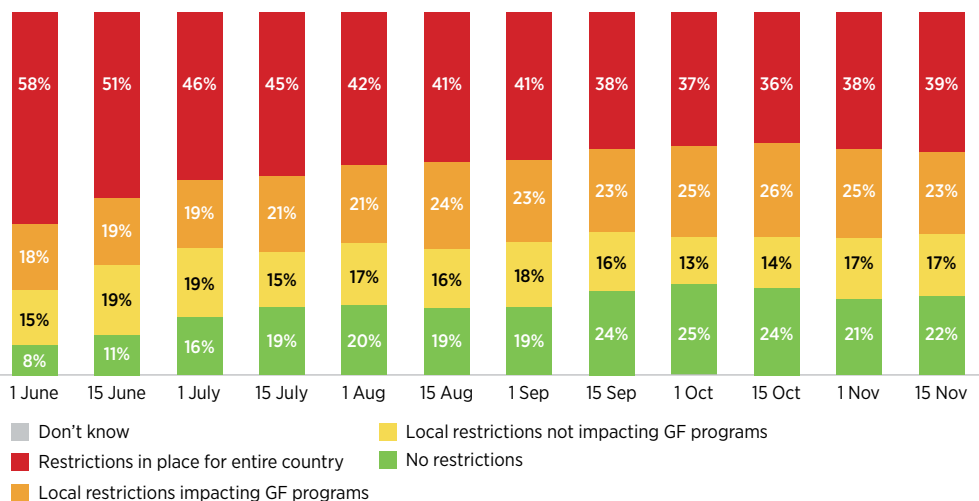
## Global Fund COVID-19 Country Monitoring

As of 19 November 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 November 2020**:

**Countries in lockdown:** COVID-19-related restrictions are again increasing in the countries where the Global Fund invests. 39% of countries are in lockdown, up from 36% on 15 October.

### Lockdown Status

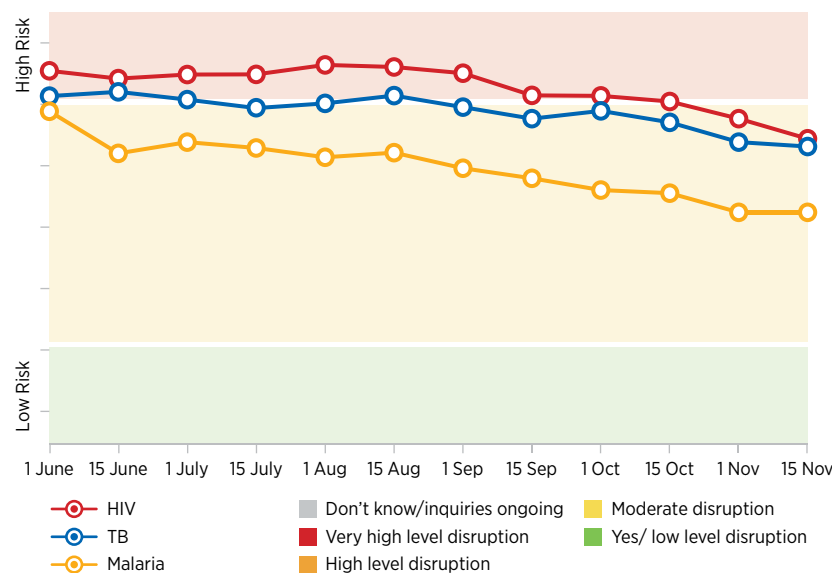


**Costed national plans:** 83% of countries have costed response plans in place for their COVID-19 response. This is the highest percentage reported since May.

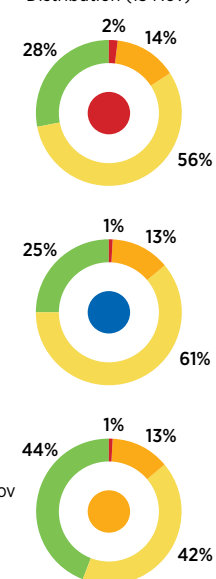
**Disruption to health service delivery:** Level of disruptions to health services delivery in TB and malaria remains stable while level of disruptions to health services delivery in HIV has slightly decreased since 15 October. For all three diseases, decreased attendance at health facilities continues to impact service delivery. On the HIV front, community-based services are strongly impacted, with key populations most affected. Attendance in health facilities has decreased due to fears of COVID-19 infection and financial hardship associated with lockdown. On TB, programmatic improvements are reported, but transportation issues prevent people from accessing services and hampers the transportation of samples to reference labs. Malaria programs continue to report less disruption than HIV and TB programs, with many countries reporting long-lasting insecticidal nets distribution campaigns, indoor residual spraying, and seasonal malaria chemoprevention activities currently ongoing or already completed. However, in some countries, malaria programs suffer from delays in mass mosquito net distribution campaigns — a few of which are now delayed by several months.

### Service delivery disruption

Average Score of Countries



Latest Answer Distribution (15 Nov)



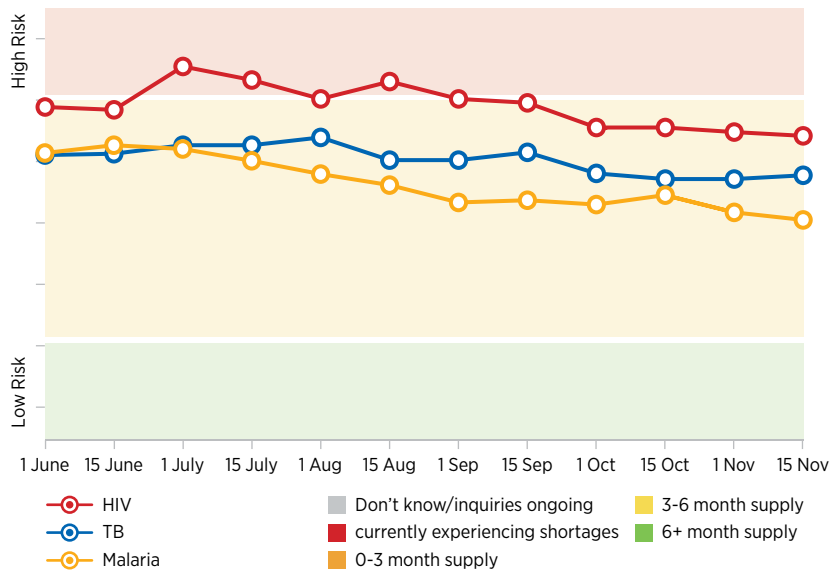
# Global Fund Response

## Global Fund COVID-19 Country Monitoring

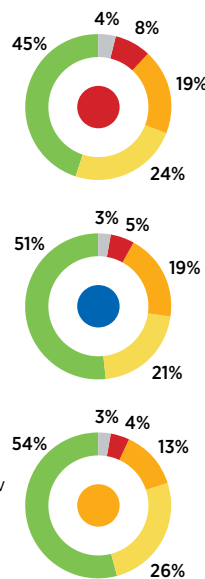
**Disruption to supply of key medicines:** The national stock for all components are observed stable compared to 1 November. Between 4% and 8% of countries are still experiencing shortages; any stock-outs are reported mostly at the central level. For all components, around 70% of countries have at least a 3-month supply of health products. Delays are on the manufacturing side, shipment, and clearing goods through customs. In-country distribution is getting more difficult in some countries as the price of fuel increases, vehicle availability decreases, and transportation is hampered by restrictions. This results in increased time and cost to complete the same distribution.

### Availability of national stock

Average Score of Countries

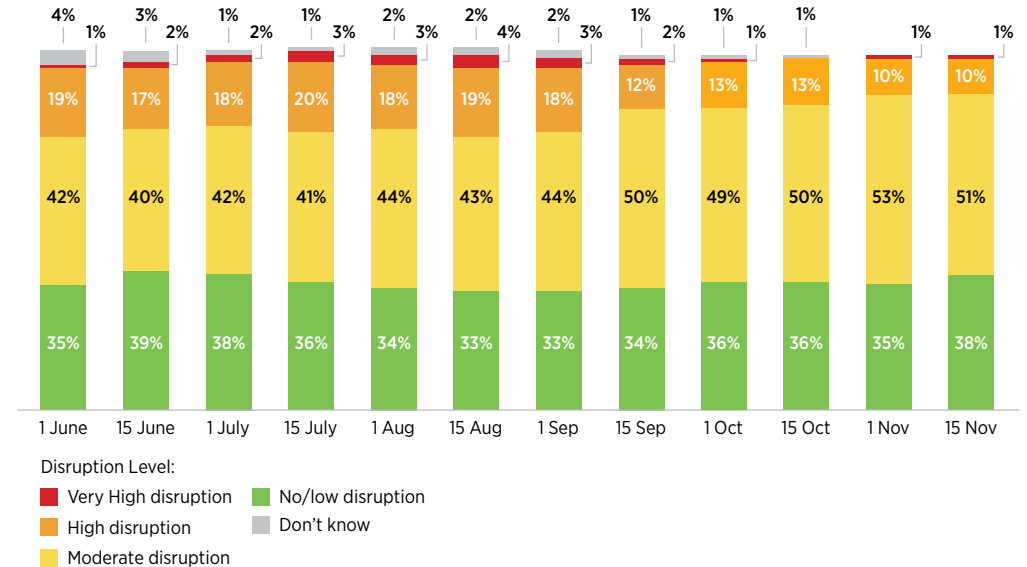


Latest Answer Distribution (15 Nov)



**Lab services:** 38% countries report no or low lab services disruption, up from 35% on 1 November. Disruption has been mitigated in some countries thanks to increased availability of personal protective equipment for service providers, or additional cartridges and GeneXpert machines to cope with increased lab demands. While labs are adapting to handle COVID-19 tests, they are, for the most part, able to keep up with the demand for HIV and TB services. Many countries reported that machines and/or human resources were being returned to their normal, pre-COVID-19 activities. However, 10% of countries still experience high disruption in lab services.

### HIV and/or TB lab services disruption





# Global Fund Response

## Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and Malaria

### IN FOCUS THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY COVID-19 IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV

As the world fights COVID-19, we must remember that we haven't finished the fight against the last major pandemic to hit humanity: HIV. We need to step up the fight against both COVID-19 and HIV.

Even before COVID-19, we were not making progress fast enough to stop new HIV infections and get people on lifesaving, infection-preventing treatment – and the COVID-19 pandemic has knocked us further off-track. The knock-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic may undo more than a decade of progress in the fight against HIV. Lockdowns, economic fallout and increased stigma and discrimination have delayed or blocked access to lifesaving HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care services.

Thanks to fast action and funding from the Global Fund partnership, governments, communities and health partners, we may have avoided the immediate worst-case scenario – but the long-term impact on the ending HIV transmission and preventable deaths will be huge.

But the global response to COVID-19 should also give us hope and renewed energy in the fight against HIV. COVID-19 has shown that if the world can unite and invest to develop new treatments, tests and vaccines in the space of a year for COVID-19, we can and must push the boundaries of science and be open and agile to add new tools into our toolkit for the response to HIV. The COVID-19 crisis has also created new opportunities to stop new HIV infections and accelerated progress in innovative tools and approaches to get more people on treatment and increase testing.

#### New HIV innovations and approaches introduced or fast-tracked as a result of COVID-19:

- ▶ **The power of, and need for, real-time, local data:** COVID-19 has shown this is possible; infections, hospital admissions and deaths worldwide are tracked daily. We need to apply the same approach to HIV data.
- ▶ **Accelerate technology uptake of telemedicine and e-health:** Lockdowns have shown that for many populations, we can move to digital channels to reach people and deliver services, expanding our impact.

- ▶ **Accelerate policy and practice shifts:** While it was previously thought that providing multiple months of ARVs or ordering PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) online was impossible, new approaches have proven that this is not just possible, but improves access and adherence to treatment and prevention services.
- ▶ **Education on test, trace and treat:** Strong safety messages about preventing COVID-19 has reinforced social responsibility for onward transmission of all infectious diseases, including HIV. Knowing your HIV status enables people to access lifesaving ARVs – medicine that also prevents onward transmission – and empowers people to make smart choices for themselves and their loved ones.

#### How the Global Fund is protecting HIV programs during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- ▶ Facilitating access to essential commodities for people most in need:
  - ▷ Providing multi-month dispensing of lifesaving antiretroviral therapy to ensure people stay on treatment and they don't have to travel to clinics where they could be exposed to COVID-19. UNAIDS data show multi-month dispensing has already halved clinic visits, reducing the burden on health facilities already overwhelmed by COVID-19. Multi-month dispensing should also include ARVs for PrEP and other essential commodities needed to provide priority services.
  - ▷ Delivering support, key medicines and products that are part of the basic prevention package door-to-door, particularly for key populations and vulnerable populations such as people with TB/HIV coinfection, new mothers or pregnant women.
  - ▷ Delivering prevention and support services via smartphone and online.
- ▶ Distributing personal protective equipment for health workers and community health workers delivering HIV prevention, treatment and care to protect them and their communities from COVID-19.
- ▶ Providing additional diagnostics machines and laboratory support so testing services are available for COVID-19, HIV and TB.

# Global Fund Response

## Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and Malaria

### COUNTRY CASE THE HIDDEN TRAGEDY OF COVID-19 ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN MALAWI

School closures, lockdowns and the economic fallout from COVID-19 has made adolescent girls and young women more vulnerable to gender-based violence, early pregnancy, forced marriage and sexually transmitted illnesses including HIV. Grace Ngulube, a member of the Global Fund's Youth Council, travelled across Malawi in August speaking with young women and girls about the impact of school closures and COVID-19 on their lives.

"There were reports of increased teenage pregnancies in several districts across the country when schools were closed," said Ngulube. "In many cases, the pregnancies were the result of sexual violence and limited access to sexual and reproductive health services. COVID-19 is infecting the lives of an entire generation and ripping off the dreams of millions of adolescent girls and young women. The knock-on impact of the pandemic could result in a vicious cycle that will fuel the HIV epidemic, stall progress toward gender equality and perpetuate inter-generational cycles of poverty."

In Malawi, the Global Fund has approved US\$31.4 million to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs, reinforce the national COVID-19 response, protect front-line health workers and strengthen health systems. The funding has helped the country adapt HIV programs to ensure uninterrupted access to services for adolescent girls and young women. This includes multi-month supplies of antiretroviral therapy, personal protective equipment for peer educators to provide face-to-face care in hard-to-reach communities, a focus on parent-child communication, virtual support groups to provide HIV health services and referral for sexual and reproductive health through text messages and information on gender-based violence and unplanned pregnancy prevention on radio stations. Additional funds are urgently needed to meet the new challenges caused by COVID-19 and keep girls safe from HIV.

Read more about Ngulube and adolescent girls and young women in Malawi [here](#).





# Global Fund Response

## Communications, Media and Events

### Communications Products

- ▶ News Releases:
  - ▷ Global Fund Board signals strong commitment to sustain the fight against HIV, TB, malaria while supporting the global response to COVID-19 [ENG](#) | [FR](#)
  - ▷ Germany signs EUR150 million contribution to the Global Fund's COVID-19 response [ENG](#)
- ▶ Stories and videos:
  - ▷ Aftab's story: Fighting TB in the shadow of COVID-19 in India [ENG](#) | [FR](#)
  - ▷ In Nigeria, health workers tackle stigma and misconceptions as they fight TB and COVID-19 [ENG](#) | [FR](#)
  - ▷ The Human Cost of COVID-19 (with ACT-Accelerator Partners) [ENG](#)
  - ▷ Conversation with Peter Sands at the WISH Summit [VIDEO](#)
- ▶ Op-eds:
  - ▷ [“COVID-19 must transform the definition of global health security”](#), By Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund

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### In the News

- ▶ Le Temps – 12 November 2020 – [La difficile distribution équitable des vaccins](#)
- ▶ World Bank Blog – 18 November 2020 – [Tackling corruption in governments' COVID-19 health responses](#)
- ▶ Devex – 19 November 2020 – [Why exciting results from vaccine research are just the beginning of efforts to end COVID-19](#)
- ▶ Development Today – 20 November 2020 – [Interview with Peter Sands: On the origins of the COVID19 global response and what needs to be done now](#)
- ▶ The Telegraph – 21 November 2020 – [We are facing an unprecedented global challenge to protect every country from Covid-19](#)
- ▶ Borgen Magazine – 24 November 2020 – [How the Global Fund Confronts COVID-19 in the Developing World](#)

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### On Social Media

- ▶ LinkedIn
  - ▷ [“Behind the COVID-19 vaccines is a hidden arsenal of diagnostic tests”](#), by Peter Sands and Catharina Boehme
  - ▷ [“COVID-19 must transform the definition of global health security”](#), by Peter Sands
- ▶ YouTube
  - ▷ [Conversation with Peter Sands at the WISH Summit](#)
- ▶ Twitter
  - ▷ @WISHQatar – [Peter Sands on the impact of COVID-19 on other infectious diseases](#)
  - ▷ @GlobalFund – [Italy and Global Fund working to mitigate the impact of COVID-19](#)
  - ▷ @GlobalFund – [The story of Aftab](#)
  - ▷ @GlobalFund – [In Nigeria, health workers tackle stigma and misconceptions as they fight TB and COVID-19](#)
  - ▷ @GlobalFund – [When you shop RED you save lives](#)

# Global Fund Response

## Communications, Media and Events

### Upcoming Events

- ▶ **25 November: Press briefing for the launch of the WHO World Malaria Report 2020** (report embargoed until 30 November). Speakers: Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund; Dr. Pedro Alonso, Director, WHO Global Malaria Programme; Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa; Dr. Abdourahmane Diallo, CEO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria.
- ▶ **1 December: World AIDS Day.** Speakers: Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund; Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS; WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.
- ▶ **1 December: World AIDS Day Parliamentary event** (organized by the LGBTI Intergroup at the European Parliament in cooperation with UNAIDS). Panel 1: Human Rights of LGBTI persons in the Global South. Speakers: Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund; Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS; Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships; Serge Douomong, Cameroonian Activist.
- ▶ **3 December: Human Rights Day event.** Speakers: Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund; Antonio Zappulla, Chief Executive Officer of Thomson Reuters Foundation.
- ▶ **3-4 December: United Nations General Assembly Special Session on COVID-19.** Session will include an Interactive Dialogue on ACT-Accelerator led by WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and the Facilitation Council co-Chairs. Proposed Segment II is on immediate full rollout of life-saving clinical tools. Panelists may include FIND, Wellcome Trust and the Global Fund.
- ▶ **8 December: Virtual panel on the occasion of Universal Health Coverage Day (12 December),** organized by civil society advocates in Brussels. Roundtable: how can the EU strengthen its global health leadership? Speakers: Marijke Wijnroks, Chief of Staff at the Global Fund; representatives from the European Union, the WHO and other United Nations agencies, the civil society, think tanks and academics.
- ▶ **9 December: Roundtable with ACT-Accelerator principals and CEOs** (co-hosted by Global Citizen and the International Chamber of Commerce). Speakers may include: Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund; Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Board Chair of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Dr. Jeremy Farrar, Director of the Wellcome Trust; Dr. Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; representatives from governments, private sector, and communities.
- ▶ **10 December: Human Rights Day**
- ▶ **12 December: Universal Health Coverage Day**
- ▶ **14 December (TBC): ACT-Accelerator Pre-Facilitation Council meeting** ahead of the ACT-Accelerator 3rd Facilitation Council meeting (scheduled early 2021)

### Partners Publications

- ▶ 17 November: The Wellcome Trust report [Global Response to AMR: Momentum, success, and critical gaps](#)
- ▶ 13 November: WHO [Technical specifications of personal protective equipment for COVID-19](#)