

Our Reference / Subject Line: **COVID-19 UPDATE FOR NON-PPM PRS**

20 April 2020

Dear Principal Recipient:

The Global Fund continues to work closely with our technical partners, including Stop TB/GDF. We aim to continue to support countries to process requisitions efficiently and ensure products are delivered as close to the promised dates as possible.

The global response to COVID-19 continues to impact health product supply globally. We are sharing [regular updates](#) to provide clarity on the supply security situation. As of 17 April 2020:

- **The impact to manufacturing is moderate.** Pharmaceutical-related production in China is recovering. In India, production is expected to continue through the lockdown period, however capacity will be reduced due to manpower and increasing logistics constraints. Delays are likely over the next few months.
- **COVID-19 control measures at origin and destination are resulting in logistics disruptions.** Suspended operations, flight delays and cancellations are contributing to routing and capacity constraints. Delivery delays of several weeks or more are currently expected.

Impact on future orders

In early March both the Global Fund and Stop TB recommended that all Principal Recipients submit requisitions for deliveries expected in 2020 by 10 April to reduce manufacturing and supply chain pressures.

Today, in the context of the current supply constraints we advise all Principal Recipients to take the following measures to optimize supply:

- **PRs to urgently submit all outstanding requisitions for deliveries expected in 2020 for all grants.** At this point deliveries may only be possible for late November/December 2020 at the earliest, and delays of more than 30 days are expected. Failure to place requisitions in line with communicated guidance increases the risk that an order will not be financed from the current implementation period because the order was not placed with sufficient lead time for delivery before the end of the grant.
- **Requirements for customized labelling requests should be waived** to ensure that products can be quickly manufactured and efficiently deployed to all countries.

Currently, sea freight is more reliable and may enable timely delivery despite longer initial lead times. There are ongoing challenges with air freight, including flight cancellations and frequent re-routing which can cause substantial delays and cost implications. Principal Recipients should rapidly approve freight proposals to secure the best available slot, as approval delays could contribute several weeks' delays.

PRs may need to accommodate greater flexibilities, such as reducing remaining shelf life requirements, accepting later deliveries for some quantities or to consider using alternative WHO-recommended products if there are supply shortages. Please proactively discuss alternate options with relevant in-country stakeholders and national regulatory authorities.

Support for current deliveries

PRs should use available track-and-trace tools to monitor the progress of specific orders. Changes to delivery schedules and freight providers are likely. Principal Recipients should provide rapid feedback on the following to necessary stakeholders:

- Timely feedback on approval of expiry dates;
- Greenlighting shipments and obtaining necessary waivers;
- Exercising flexibilities with the pertinent in-country stakeholders; and
- Approval on the increased freight costs.

If you incur significant challenges sourcing core life-saving products

Your HPM Specialist will be able to reach out to the Global Fund's Supply Operations Department and other partners should you incur significant challenges in sourcing core life-saving products. Delays are expected due to the current supply situation and we ask you to consider a 30-day delay threshold for requesting sourcing support from the Global Fund except in exceptional circumstances.

Your Country Team is available to provide additional information and support as necessary.

Track and Trace Tools		
PPM	i+ Solutions	https://trackandtrace.iplussolutions.org/Account/Login
	IDA Foundation	http://myorders.idafoundation.org/
	PSFCM	https://myorders.pfscm.org/#/delivery_status
Stop TB's Global Drug Facility (GDF)		http://www.stoptb.org/gdf/oms/