19 March 2020

Dear Principal Recipient:

The Global Fund continues to work closely with our technical partners, especially StopTB/GDF and Procurement Service Agents (PSAs) as the global response to the COVID-19 outbreak evolves. Our goal is to continue to process requisitions efficiently and effectively, and work with our freight providers to ensure products are delivered as close to the promised dates as possible.

We are assessing the manufacturing and logistics situation and sharing regular updates to provide clarity on the supply security situation for products and freight/logistics. As of 19 March 2020:

- **The impact to manufacturing is limited.** There were some delays in the manufacturing of both finished products and raw materials as a result of the initial shutdown in China which is now showing signs of normalization.
- **Delivery delays of a few weeks or more are currently expected.** We now see challenges related to freight and logistics such as disruptions in delivery schedules or shortages of shipping containers.

**Impact on future orders**

We have taken the following measures to reduce manufacturing and supply chain pressures to be able to optimize supply for all Principal Recipients (PRs) in the context of a rapidly changing situation:

- **PRs to submit all requisitions in wambo.org and send Procurement Request Forms (PRFs) to StopTB/GDF for deliveries expected in 2020 by 10 April 2020 for all grants.** This replaces our revised lead times recommendation on 6 March and the guidance in the lead-time-planning guide.
- **New requests for customized labelling requests will not be accepted.** The Global Fund and StopTB/GDF will no longer accept customized labelling to ensure that products can be quickly manufactured and efficiently deployed to all countries.

Should the supply or logistics situation significantly worsen, we will expect PRs 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 consider these potential adjustments when planning future procurements and 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. Extra collaboration is necessary as we foresee changes to delivery schedules and freight providers. PRs and PSAs will be required to produce the associated documentation that may be needed to accommodate late changes to flight routes under expedited timelines. Please discuss exercising flexibilities with the pertinent in-country stakeholders. We appreciate your support in providing timely feedback on approval of expiry dates, greenlighting shipments and obtaining necessary waivers. We have already seen increased freight costs.

The Global Fund, StopTB/GDF and PSAs will reach out to implementing partners to proactively take measures to minimize impact on deliveries where delays of more than 30 days are expected.

We ask you to consider 30 days delay as the threshold for escalation as the Global Fund and PSAs capacities are stretched due to government control measures in place in various countries.

Please reach out to your PR Services Focal Point, StopTB/GDF and PSA contacts for further information and discuss with your Country Team as necessary.

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