

COVID-19 Situation Report – 31 March 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 693,224 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 33,106 confirmed (as of 30 March). The WHO [COVID-19 Solidarity Fund](#) has now received donations of more than US\$108 million. WHO updated the [operational planning guidelines](#) to help countries maintain essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The WHO Director-General highlighted the chronic global shortage of personal protective equipment. WHO published a [practical manual](#) to set up a severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) treatment centre and a SARI screening facility. Please see [WHO Coronavirus Situation Reports](#) for detailed updates on the global response.

2. Global Fund COVID-19 Response

To fight COVID-19 and mitigate the impact the pandemic will have on programs to fight HIV, TB and malaria, the Global Fund is [enabling countries to use up to 5% of approved grant funding](#) – approximately US\$500 million – to help protect and treat vulnerable communities around the world. Under the new guidelines, the Global Fund is encouraging countries to redeploy underutilized assets, repurpose grant savings and, in exceptional cases, reprogram funding from existing grants. Latest updates:

- Funding has been approved for 31 countries and two regional grants (53 individual decisions: this means countries distribute the COVID investment between different grants or come back with repeat requests for the same grant) for a total of nearly US\$25 million. The 31 countries include (new countries in bold): Afghanistan, Albania, **Bangladesh**, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Georgia, Honduras, India, **Kazakhstan**, **Kosovo**, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Moldova, Myanmar, Nepal, **Pakistan**, Philippines, **Romania**, Rwanda, **Tajikistan**, **Thailand** and Ukraine. The two regional grants are: *ALCO HIV/AIDS prevention project targeting key and vulnerable population along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor*; and *Middle East Response - Ensuring continuity of treatment and essential services for people affected by HIV, TB and malaria in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon*.
- Most countries have requested less than the 5% permitted.
- Almost all funds approved to date have come from savings from existing grants.
- More requests are being prepared and reviewed; we expect at least 12 new requests in the coming days.

3. Business Contingency Planning for Existing Global Fund Grants

Business Contingency Planning focuses on protecting the Global Fund's ability to deliver its core mission, prioritizing the continued delivery of impact from the current grant cycle and the development of funding requests and grants to deliver maximum impact in the 2020-2022 allocation period.

3.1 2020-2022 Allocations

- To provide additional flexibility for applicants to submit their funding requests as soon as they are ready, the Global Fund has updated the [funding request submission dates for 2020](#).

3.2 Operational Guidance for Countries

- The Global Fund is adapting processes for current grants and will share guidance notes as they are developed. The first topics will include: disbursements, supply chain and reporting.
- A detailed Q&A is being developed to explain the different areas of flexibilities and updates on operational activities including: future Funding Request submissions, CCMs, Supply Chain, and others.
- An Operational Update e-mail with the changes is planned for 3 April.

3.3 COVID-19 Impact on HIV, TB, Malaria, Communities, Rights and Gender

- NEW: External Global Fund Guidance Note: Considerations for Global Fund Malaria Grants in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)
- NEW: [Internal Global Fund technical guidance notes for Country Teams](#) on TB and HIV (internal Global Fund use only). These are being adapted for external use.
- WHO and Global Fund technical partners guidance notes are available [here](#).

3.4 Procurement and Supply Chain

- As of 30 March 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 has increased from "low to moderate" to "moderate". For detail, see the latest [COVID-19 Impact on Health Product Supply: Assessment and Recommendations](#).
- The Indian national response to COVID-19 will impact the global pharmaceutical supply as workforce reductions contribute to longer lead times and active pharmaceutical ingredient delivery delays. Likewise, we anticipate similar delays in the production of pyrethroid-based and PBO bed-nets due to the closure of production sites in India. We are closely monitoring this situation and continuously engage with suppliers to dynamically allocate each order to the best supply option, in coordination with partners.
- As of today, 9% of Pooled Procurement Mechanism orders face delays of more than 30 days. By mid-April we should have visibility on deliveries expected in 2020, which will be helpful for mitigating delays and facilitating timely support to Principal Recipients and Country Teams to the extent possible.
- All transport modes are impacted, linked to country lockdowns. Suspended operations, flight delays and cancellations are contributing to air freight routing and capacity constraints. Disrupted global supply networks have resulted in some reduced ocean freight capacity for pharmaceuticals. Re-routing shipments, consolidating airfreight and converting to ocean freight, or changing transit countries to catch "cargo-only" aircraft are increasingly necessary. Rapid approval of freight estimates by Principal Recipients may permit securing the best currently available option, while approval delays may lead to missed shipping slot opportunities, further delays and cost increases.

4. Messaging and Advocacy

- [COVID-19 Key Messages and Talking Points](#): updated regularly.

5. Media and Communications

- [AIDS, TB And Malaria: Coronavirus Threatens The Endgame](#), by Madhukar Pai, Forbes, 29 March 2020

6. External Coordination

- The Global Fund continues to work closely with WHO and global health partners at global, regional and country levels on COVID-19 preparedness and response, particularly key issues such as supply chain, technical guidance and in-country coordination.
- The Global Fund is closely collaborating with numerous governments and organizations including the World Bank; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; many UN agencies; the Africa CDC; as well as private sector manufacturers, to advance a global response.

7. Key Resources

- [Global Fund COVID-19 Response web page](#)
- [WHO Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) Pandemic web page](#)