COVID-19 Situation Report – 7 April 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 1,247,182 confirmed. Global deaths: 69,212. Countries, areas or territories with cases: 211 (as of 7 April, WHO). The first cases of COVID-19 have been reported in South Sudan. At a joint press conference, the WHO Director-General and IMF Managing Director reiterated the importance of both saving lives and saving livelihoods. WHO released new technical guidance recommending universal access to public hand hygiene stations and making their use obligatory on entering and leaving any public or private commercial building and any public transport facility. The Global Fund is coordinating with the WHO, which is leading the global response. WHO Situation Reports have detailed updates.

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 is available – to help protect and treat vulnerable communities around the world. Latest updates:

- Funding has been approved for 44 countries and two regional grants (81 individual decisions) for a total of nearly US$64 million. The 44 countries include (new countries are in bold): Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Eritrea, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Moldova, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia and Zimbabwe. 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. All requests follow WHO guidance on preparedness and early response. Almost all funds approved to date have come from savings from existing grants.
- The number of requests, and the dollar amount of each request, have increased greatly since March. The amount approved in the first seven days in April is equal to 57% of the total approvals from all of March. Requests are now coming in from all regions.


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 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
   o The Global Fund is adapting processes for current grants and will share guidance notes as they are developed. Please visit our website for updates.

3.3 COVID-19 Impact on HIV, TB, Malaria, Communities, Rights and Gender
   o WHO and technical partner guidance relevant to Global Fund work is available here.
   o NEW: COVID-19 Information Note: Considerations for Global Fund HIV Support
   o NEW: COVID-19 Information Note: Considerations for Global Fund TB Support

3.4 Procurement and Supply Chain
   o As of 7 April 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.
   o Pharmaceutical production is expected to continue through the lockdown period in India, however capacity will be reduced due to manpower and increasing logistics constraints. Delays are expected over the next few months. Likewise, we anticipate similar delays in the production of pyrethroid-based and PBO mosquito nets due to the closure of production sites in India and further tightening of production in Vietnam. Supply constraints are also emerging for diagnostics. We are monitoring this situation directly with suppliers and dynamically allocate each order to the best supply option, in coordination with partners including the U.S. Government, WHO and the Stop TB Partnership.
   o 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. Freight costs are increasing. Our Procurement Services Agents are tracking the rapidly changing status of origin and destination airport, sea port and land options in real time to propose the best delivery option. Re-routing shipments, consolidating airfreight and converting to ocean freight, or changing transit countries to catch “cargo-only” aircraft are increasingly necessary. Approval delays for freight estimates and securing necessary in-country waiver requirements by Principal Recipients may lead to missed shipping slot opportunities, further delays and cost increases.
   o As of 7 April, 9% of Pooled Procurement Mechanism orders face delays of more than 30 days. By mid-April we expect to have visibility on deliveries expected in 2020, which will help us to minimize delays and facilitate timely support to Principal Recipients and Country Teams to the extent possible.
   o We maintain Long Term Agreements with several suppliers producing approved COVID-19 diagnostic tests and are working closely through a consortium of international organizations led by the WHO to secure manufacturing capacity with these suppliers. We are reviewing the procurement process, which may require Board approval, and will provide more specific information, including visibility on procuring eligible products using Global Fund funding as it becomes available.

4. Messaging and Advocacy
   • COVID-19 Key Messages and Talking Points: updated regularly.

5. Media and Communications
   • Africa is on the brink of a Covid-19 catastrophe unless immediate action is taken, by Peter Sands, The Daily Telegraph, 7 April 2020
   • Thank you health workers (video)
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