

COVID-19 Situation Report – 8 May 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 3,679,499 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 254,199 confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases:** 215 (as of 8 May, [WHO](#)). On 4 May governments and organizations pledged €7.4 billion as part of the [Coronavirus Global Response pledging](#) marathon led by the European Commission, which runs until 23 May, to develop and deploy diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against COVID-19. An [Imperial College study](#) released 1 May estimates that in high-burden settings, additional deaths related to HIV, TB and malaria over five years may increase by up to 10%, 20% and 36%, respectively, as an indirect result of the COVID-19 epidemic. A [modelling study by Stop TB Partnership](#) found that COVID-19 could lead to additional 6.3 million cases of TB between 2020 and 2025 and an additional 1.4 million deaths. WHO, UNICEF and the International Federation of the Red Cross have published [guidance for countries on how to maintain community-based healthcare](#) in the context of COVID-19. WHO has developed [key criteria that COVID-19 challenge study programs for testing vaccine candidates](#) would need to meet to ensure that such research is conducted to the highest ethical standards. A [new study by WHO](#) estimates up to 190,000 people in Africa could die of COVID-19 if containment measures fail. [WHO Situation Reports](#) have detailed updates.

2. Global Fund COVID-19 Response

The Global Fund is providing up to US\$1 billion and operational flexibility to help countries fight COVID-19, shore up health systems and mitigate the impacts on lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs. Emergency funding is available through the US\$500 million [COVID-19 Response Mechanism](#) and additional [grant flexibilities of up to US\\$500 million](#) ([Español](#) | [Français](#)). Application materials for the COVID-19 Response Mechanism are available [here](#).

The Global Fund brings its well-established procurement system to the fight against COVID-19, co-leading the COVID-19 Supply Chain System Diagnostics Consortium along with UNICEF to negotiate pricing and procure molecular diagnostic tests for COVID-19 on behalf of countries and partners involved in the global response. The Global Fund has also opened its innovative online sourcing portal, [wambo.org](#), to all countries and organizations so they can access the same economies of scale the Global Fund has secured for its own partners. The Global Fund is a co-convenor with FIND for the Diagnostics Partnership as part of the joint [Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator](#) to accelerate the development, production and equitable distribution of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics for COVID-19. See the [COVID-19 Key Messages and Talking Points](#) for more detail.

Latest updates:

- NEW: [COVID-19 Response Mechanism Questions and Answers](#)
- Italy [allocated €500,000](#) to the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism.
- Funding has been approved for 75 countries and five regional grants (183 individual decisions) for a total of nearly US\$113 million. The full list of countries and funding approved is available [here](#). All requests follow WHO guidance on preparedness and early response. Additional funding requests are in preparation.
- The majority of all countries implementing Global Fund grants are now using the COVID-19 grant flexibilities.

- Source of funds almost exclusively from savings from existing grants, thus no negative impact on ongoing Global Fund-supported programs.

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 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. Please visit our [website](#) for updates.

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

- WHO and technical partner guidance relevant to Global Fund work is available [here](#).
- Global Fund COVID-19 Information Notes: Global Fund investments and advice to Principal Recipients and implementers strictly follow WHO guidelines. Global Fund COVID-19 Information Notes on HIV, TB, malaria, health systems and human rights are available [here](#).
- NEW: [COVID-19: Priorities for Global Fund HIV Support](#)

3.4 Procurement and Supply Chain

- As of 8 May 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**.
- We are working closely with suppliers to monitor the pharmaceutical, mosquito net, and diagnostics supply situation and currently increases in production lead times and delays expected over the next few months. We are allocating each order to the best supply option, in coordination with partners including the U.S. Government, WHO and the Stop TB Partnership. We continue to see challenges and increasing costs for freight and logistics.
- Today, 9% of Pooled Procurement Mechanism face delays of more than 30 days, including 15% of orders in transit. We are working with Principal Recipients and Country Teams to manage expectations, minimize delays and facilitate timely support to the extent possible.
- The Board approved several flexibilities to enable the flow of health products to countries in light of the global COVID-19 response. Supply Operations is publishing operational guidance for Principal Recipients related to requirements for procuring eligible COVID-19 diagnostic products and [managing exceptions to mandatory pre-shipment QA Testing and Sampling](#) requiring pre-approval.

4. Messaging and Advocacy

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

5. Media and Communications

- **Online event 12 May:** [Supporting Africa in the Fight Against COVID-19 and Beyond](#). Join the AU, Gavi, and the Global Fund for an online discussion hosted by the Center for Global Development 12 May 9:30-11:00 EDT/15:30-17:00 CET.

- [Short case studies](#) of countries responding to COVID-19 using support from the Global Fund are available. Additional stories and case studies will be added as available.
- **Video:** [Statement by Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund, as part of the EC Coronavirus Global Response pledging event](#)
- **In the news:**
 - [Access to Lifesaving Medical Resources for African Countries: COVID-19 Testing and Response, Ethics, And Politics](#), The Lancet by Matthew M Kavanagh et al., 07 May 2020
 - [The HIV response provides a blueprint to tackle Covid-19](#), Daily Telegraph, 1 May 2020

6. External Coordination

- The Global Fund joined WHO, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, Unitaid and other global health and private sector partners to launch the [Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator](#) to call for increased collaboration to accelerate the development, production and equitable distribution of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics for COVID-19. The Global Fund is a co-convenor with FIND for the Diagnostics Partnership.
- 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 participating in a WHO-led consortium on procurement with public and private sector partners to help deliver health products to countries in need.
- 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](#)