

COVID-19 Situation Report – 20 May 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 4,761,559 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 317,529 confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases:** 216 (as of 20 May, [WHO](#)). Delegates at the [73rd World Health Assembly adopted a resolution](#) to bring the world together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. WHO has published a new scientific brief on “[Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children and adolescents with COVID-19](#)”. A UN [policy brief on COVID-19 and mental health](#) warns that substantial investment is needed to avert a mental health crisis. [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](#).

As part of the global response to COVID-19, the Global Fund is working with health leaders, partners and governments to ensure the global response to COVID-19 includes lessons learned from the fight against HIV, TB and malaria: protect human rights and address stigma and discrimination, particularly among key and vulnerable populations; fight gender barriers to health; engage communities in the response; and fairly allocate limited COVID-19 resources and new tools so that no one is left behind.

The Global Fund is a founding partner of the [Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator](#), a global collaboration of organizations and governments working to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to new COVID-19 technologies. As part of ACT-A, we are a co-convenor of both the Diagnostics Partnership (with FIND) and the Health Systems Connector (with the World Bank), and we are a procurement and deployment partner in the Therapeutics Partnership. We also co-lead the WHO Diagnostics Consortium along with UNICEF to negotiate pricing and procure molecular diagnostic tests for COVID-19, and we have opened our innovative online sourcing portal, [wambo.org](#), to all countries and organizations so they also can benefit from the Global Fund’s economies of scale for health products. See the [COVID-19 Key Messages and Talking Points](#) for more detail.

Latest updates:

- Funding has been approved for 83 countries and six regional grants (219 individual decisions) for a total of nearly US\$138 million through COVID-19 grant flexibilities. The full list of countries and funding approved is available [here](#). All requests follow WHO guidance on preparedness and early response. Source of funds almost exclusively from savings from existing grants, thus no negative impact on ongoing Global Fund-supported programs.
- The majority of all countries implementing Global Fund grants are now using the COVID-19 grant flexibilities.

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](#).

3.4 Procurement and Supply Chain

- As of 20 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**.
- Today, 10% of Pooled Procurement Mechanism face delays of more than 30 days, including 19% 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 Global Fund is working with key partners, international organizations, governments and technical agencies through a WHO-led consortium to rapidly and equitably [support access to COVID-19 health products and diagnostics for LMICs](#). The Global Fund is the designated lead procurer for COVID-19 diagnostics from Abbott and Cepheid and we have secured production capacity to operationalize the WHO allocation model. Countries receiving Global Fund grants may purchase Abbott and Cepheid diagnostic tests using an accelerated order process through the Global Fund's Supply Operations Department.

4. Messaging and Advocacy

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

5. Media and Communications

- **News release:** [Global Fund Board Members Unite to Fight](#)
- **Video:** [Building Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health](#)
- **Stories and case studies:**
 - [On the Front Lines: Responding to COVID-19](#) – Collection of stories and case studies, by country
 - [During COVID-19, HIV Medication in Ukraine Arrives by Post](#)
 - [Protecting Mothers and Babies from HIV during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- **In the news:**
 - [« L'Afrique est de plus en plus atteinte par le coronavirus : les nouveaux cas et les décès augmentent rapidement »](#), Le Monde, By Paul Benkimoun, 19 May 2020

- [How clean energy can power a COVID-19 recovery](#), UNDP, 19 May 2020
- [USG Facilitates Emergency Delivery Of ARVs To Nepal Following Shortage In Country](#), Kaiser Family Foundation, 18 May 2020
- [Letter: Global Challenges Take a Global Response](#), Portland Press Herald – US, 18 May 2020
- **On social media:**
 - [UNDP, World Bank & Global Fund Support Cameroon with Test Kits for COVID-19](#)
 - [Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, on Global Fund Board Meeting](#)
 - [Winnie Byanyima, UNAIDS Executive Director, on Global Fund Board Meeting](#)

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