

COVID-19 Situation Report #17

16 June 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 7,924,527 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 434,367 confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases:** 216 (as of 16 June, [WHO](#)). The Coronavirus Global Response hosted by the European Union has received [€9.8 billion in pledges](#), beyond the initial target of €7.5 billion, and will culminate in a final summit on 27 June. The WHO Director-General warned “[the biggest threat now is complacency](#)” in countries seeing positive signs. PAHO warned parts of the [Americas need to prepare](#) to combat the effects of winter and hurricanes on COVID-19 response. WHO issued new guidance on [chest imaging](#) and [breastfeeding](#). See the [WHO Situation Reports](#) for 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](#), including new [operational procedures](#) that provide end-to-end guidance and timelines as well as a new [template](#) to support rapid program implementation.

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. Our [Focus On COVID-19](#) ([Español](#) | [Français](#)) provides an overview.

The Global Fund is a core 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 our new [web page](#) ([Français](#)) and the [COVID-19 Key Messages and Talking Points](#) for more detail.

Latest updates:

- **COVID-19 grant flexibilities:** Funding has been approved for 91 countries and eight regional grants (260 individual decisions) for a total of nearly US\$162 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 using the COVID-19 grant flexibilities.

- **COVID-19 Response Mechanism:** The Global Fund has received 59 funding requests for the COVID-19 Response Mechanism totaling more than US\$450 million from all regions where the Global Fund invests. More requests are expected this week. Funding requests through the mechanism are being reviewed and processed within 10 business days. As of 16 June, more than 30 countries have received approval for approximately US\$140 million in immediate funding through the mechanism. Countries are currently being notified of their funding request outcomes. After countries are notified, they are added to our full list of countries with funding approved. The continually updated list is available [here](#).

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 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](#).
- The [information note on resilient and sustainable systems](#) for health has been updated.

3.4 Procurement and Supply Chain

- As of 16 June, 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.

4. Messaging and Advocacy

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

5. Media and Communications

- **Stories and case studies:**

- [On the Front Lines: Responding to COVID-19](#) – Collection of stories and case studies, by country

- **In the news:**

- [Testing Funds Shortfall Imperils Covid-19 Fight, Health Groups Warn](#), Financial Times - UK, By Michael Peel, 08 June 2020
- [COVID-19 Diagnostics—Not at The Expense of Other Diseases](#), The Lancet Microbe, By Priya Venkatesan, 08 June 2020

- [5 Reasons Congress Must Act Urgently on The Global Response To COVID-19](#), The Hill - US, By Chris Collins, 13 June 2020
- [Malaria May Still Be 2020's Biggest Killer](#), Foreign Policy, By Tim Hirschel-Burns, 12 June 2020
- [In Kenya, A Chance to See Communities Confront COVID-19](#), LinkedIn, By Ernest Waititu, 09 June 2020
- **On social media:**
 - [Community Activism Rising Up in the Face of COVID-19 Challenges in Nepal](#)
 - [How COVID-19 is Reshaping Priorities for both Domestic Resources and Development Assistance in the Health Sector](#)
 - [In Kenya, A Chance to See Communities Confront COVID-19](#)

6. External Coordination

- The Global Fund participated in the launch of the Global Citizen [Global Goal: Unite for Our Future](#) fundraising drive.
- The Global Fund is part of the [Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator](#) 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.

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](#)