

COVID-19 Situation Report – 17 April 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 2,034,802 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 135,163 confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases:** 213 (as of 17 April, [WHO](#)). The first [UN solidarity flight](#) departed Addis Ababa carrying vital COVID-19 medical supplies to African nations. A group of scientists, physicians, funders and manufacturers from around the world [pledged to collaborate](#) to help speed up the availability of a vaccine. WHO has updated its [COVID-19 dashboard](#), offering better data visualization, and published the [updated strategy](#) for tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. In [India](#), WHO is deploying its national polio surveillance network and other field staff to help with the COVID-19 response. 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

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](#). Latest updates:

- Funding has been approved for 61 countries and three regional grants (123 individual decisions) for a total of nearly US\$85 million.
- The full list of countries and funding approved is available [here](#). Examples of how some countries are using the funding and map are available [here](#).
- Source of funds almost exclusively from savings from existing grants (96%), thus no negative impact on ongoing Global Fund-supported programs.
- All requests follow WHO guidance on preparedness and early response.
- Additional funding requests are in preparation.
- Operational guidance on how to access funds from the new COVID-19 Response Mechanism is being shared directly with countries and is online [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 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.

- An [Operational Update](#) with preliminary information on how to access funds from the new COVID-19 Response Mechanism is being shared with countries.

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 17 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**.
- Today, 9% of Pooled Procurement Mechanism face delays of more than 30 days, including 17% of orders in transit. As of 10 April, we now have volume visibility for most deliveries expected in 2020 which will enable us to manage expectations, minimize delays and facilitate timely support to Principal Recipients and Country Teams to the extent possible. We will share a framework for Principal Recipients to channel concerns linked to delayed orders so we can jointly evaluate mitigation options.
- The Board approved three flexibilities to ensure continued health product flows to Global Fund programs in response to the impact of COVID-19 on supply chains:
 - For orders that were placed on time but experience delivery delays beyond the Principal Recipient's control, extended the exception period for delivery of goods to be charged to the current allocation period from 90 to 180 days, in exceptional circumstances. This flexibility removes Global Fund grant-cycle induced pressures on supply chains. Requisitions must have been placed by 10 April, in line with communicated lead time guidance, for deliveries expected in 2020. The Global Fund will communicate advice to Principal Recipients for requisitions placed after 10 April for deliveries expected in 2020.
 - Allows advance order payments from future allocations, even if a grant is not yet signed, for orders placed through PPM and Stop TB's Global Drug Facility. This will encourage Principal Recipients to begin submitting orders for Q1/Q2 2021 through pooled mechanisms in line with the current extended lead times to reduce the risk of supply disruption.
 - Permits the Secretariat, on a case-by-case basis and using a defined set of criteria, to make a risk-based decision to waive mandatory pre-shipment and testing requirements for certain products, when delays in fulfilling the requirement would have negative programmatic impact. There have been logistics delays related to completing required on-site inspection and sampling activities and this flexibility will permit consideration of trade-offs of balancing delays to implement the requirement versus alternative approaches for ensuring quality assurance.

4. Messaging and Advocacy

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

5. Media and Communications

- [« La crise du Covid-19 requiert une solidarité mondiale sans précédent »](#), par Christophe Benn, Le Monde, 14 Avril 2020
- [European Union urges the World Health Assembly to pursue a voluntary pool for Covid-19 products](#), By Ed Silverman, STAT, 16 April 2020.
- World Malaria Day Social Media and Communications Toolkit ([English](#), [Français](#))
- On social media:
 - Examples of countries using Global Fund grant flexibilities to fight COVID-19: [EI](#) [Salvador](#), [Djibouti](#), [Afghanistan](#), [Myanmar](#), [Moldova](#)

- [COVID-19 threatens us all and puts the fight against HIV, TB and malaria at risk. We must unite to fight.](#)
- [\(RED\) letter](#) from President and COO Jennifer Lotito
- [Global Citizen Concert](#)

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 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](#)