

COVID-19 Situation Report – 21 April 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 2,356,414 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 160,120 confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases:** 213 (as of 21 April, [WHO](#)). WHO and Global Citizen hosted the “[One World, Together At Home](#)” concert in support of frontline health workers and the global COVID-19 pandemic response. WHO has published a [brief](#) on the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in patients with COVID-19 and new [guidance](#) for refugees and migrants to be included in the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This week is European Immunization Week. An update on Emergency Medical Teams, the Global Health Cluster, the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, and Risk Communications and Community Engagement is [here](#). 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 64 countries and three regional grants (135 individual decisions) for a total of nearly US\$94 million. The full list of countries and funding approved is available [here](#).
- Half 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 (97%), 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.

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.

- Operational guidance on how to access funds from the new COVID-19 Response Mechanism is online [here](#).

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 21 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**.
- The pharmaceutical, bed net, and diagnostics supply situation remains as described in the [Situation Report from 17 April](#), with production challenges and delays expected over the next few months. We continue to monitor 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.
- We continue to see challenges and increasing costs for freight and logistics. Our Procurement Services Agents are tracking the situation in real time to propose the best delivery options. Rapid decision making by Principal Recipients is critical to secure the best options, which if lost may also lead to missed opportunities, further delays and cost increases.
- Today, 8% of Pooled Procurement Mechanism face delays of more than 30 days, including 14% of orders in transit. 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.

4. Messaging and Advocacy

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

5. Media and Communications

- **Examples of how some countries are using COVID-19 support from the Global Fund:**
 - **Afghanistan** is strengthening diagnostic capacity for COVID-19 and mitigating impact on malaria programs by expanding testing facilities outside the capital of Kabul and purchasing testing kits and antiseptics.
 - **Benin** is repurposing GeneXpert machines used for TB to also test for COVID-19 and purchasing 15,000 tests.
 - **Bolivia** is strengthening COVID-19 diagnostics and care among people living with HIV, and temporarily repurposing GeneXpert machines to expand diagnostic coverage.
 - **Cuba** is strengthening the molecular diagnosis of COVID-19 in regional laboratories; purchasing gloves, face shields, masks and gowns; and mitigating impact on HIV programs.
 - **El Salvador** is fighting COVID-19 and mitigating impact on TB programs by purchasing surgical masks, N95 respirator masks, alcohol gel and thermometers.
 - **Honduras** is mitigating impact on malaria programs and fighting COVID-19 by purchasing 25,000 surgical masks and 5,000 N95 respirator masks and by utilizing four ventilators and a mobile X-ray machine.
 - **India** is purchasing medical equipment and strengthening its lab capacity to fight TB and COVID-19.

- **Malaysia** is procuring masks, gloves and other protective equipment to support outreach workers providing HIV services to key populations such as sex workers, transgender people, and men who have sex with men.
- **Moldova** is fighting COVID-19 and strengthening its response to HIV and TB by purchasing 5,000 testing kits and personal protective equipment, with more on the way.
- **The Philippines** is purchasing personal protective equipment for health workers to fight TB and COVID-19, including gloves, antiseptics, face shields, masks and gowns.
- **In the news:**
 - [How Is COVID-19 Affecting Malaria Programs?](#) Devex, 15 April 2020, By Jenny Lei Ravelo
- **On social media:**
 - Examples of countries using Global Fund grant flexibilities to fight COVID-19: [Cuba](#), [Honduras](#), [Cameroon \(ENG\)](#), [Cameroon \(FRA\)](#), [Malaysia](#)
 - [One World Together at Home Global Citizen concert](#)
- **World Malaria Day** Social Media and Communications Toolkit ([English](#), [Français](#))

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](#)