

COVID-19 Situation Report – 15 May 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 4,258,666 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 294,190 confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases:** 216 (as of 15 May, [WHO](#)). [WHO and UNAIDS modelling](#) estimates that if efforts are not made to mitigate and overcome interruptions in health services and supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic, deaths from HIV could increase by 40% over five years in sub-Saharan Africa. According to WHO's [2020 World Health Statistics](#), the COVID-19 pandemic is threatening the recent advances in health and progress towards global sustainable development goals. WHO has published an interim [guidance document on laboratory biosafety](#) for testing of clinical specimens of patients that meet the case definition of COVID-19. New [interim guidance](#) has been released by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on how to adapt COVID-19 prevention and response measures for use in low capacity and humanitarian settings. [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:

- The Global Fund's procurement system has secured approximately 2 million diagnostic tests through volume agreements. The first delivery of 15,000 COVID-19 diagnostics test kits (Xpert® Xpress SARS-CoV-2) procured through the Global Fund's procurement system and financed through grant savings was delivered to Uganda.

- The Global Fund launched the COVID-19 Monitoring Tool to monitor COVID-19 pandemic and responses in 106 countries where the Global Fund invests, and to examine the impact on the Global Fund funding request and service continuity.
- Funding has been approved for 81 countries and six regional grants (210 individual decisions) for a total of nearly US\$130 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. Additional funding requests are in preparation. 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](#).
- NEW: [COVID-19 Guidance Note: Community, Rights and Gender](#)
- NEW: [COVID-19 Information Note: Considerations for Global Fund Support for Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health](#)

3.4 Procurement and Supply Chain

- As of 15 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 continue to work closely with suppliers to monitor the pharmaceutical, mosquito net, and diagnostics supply situation allocate each order to the best supply option, in coordination with partners.
- 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.

4. Messaging and Advocacy

- [COVID-19 Key Messages and Talking Points](#): updated regularly.
- Additional funding for the COVID-19 Response Mechanism is immediately needed to support the emergency response, shore up health systems so they don't collapse and help countries adapt HIV, TB and malaria programs. Private sector support, particularly rapid

deployment of supply chain and information technology solutions, is critical to help low-income countries quickly strengthen their capacities to fight COVID-19.

5. Media and Communications

- **Union online event 20 May:** [How to prevent 1.4 million deaths: Advancing TB care & prevention in a time of COVID19](#). Join the Union, Stop TB Partnership, FIND, USAID, the AU, Gavi and the Global Fund for a panel discussion hosted by Victoria MacDonald, Channel 4 news. 20 May, 16.00-17:00 CEST
- **Video:** Recording of the Center for Global Development discussion [Supporting Africa in the Fight Against COVID-19 and Beyond](#), featuring Peter Sands, the AU and Gavi.
- **Short case studies and stories** of countries responding to COVID-19 using support from the Global Fund are available and updated regularly.
- **Global Fund Map Gif:** Animated map showing countries implementing COVID-19 funding.
- **In the news:**
 - [Funding for Harm Reduction Services Is Key For Long-Term Health Goals](#), Devex, By Naomi Burke-Shyne, 15 May 2020
 - [For COVID-19 and Beyond, a Global Health Powerhouse Looks to Mobilize More](#), Inside Philanthropy, By Paul Karon, 15 May 2020
 - [Amid COVID-19, Communities Continue Fight Against Other Pandemics](#), Thomson Reuters Foundation, by Linda Mafu, 11 May 2020
 - [Africa's Health Dilemma: Protecting People from COVID-19 While Four Times as Many Could Die of Malaria](#), IPS, By Busani Bafana, 11 May 2020
 - [The Right Response to the Coronavirus Is Global Engagement, Just Like After World War II](#), USA TODAY, By Liz Schrayner, 11 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 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](#)

