

COVID-19 Situation Report #20

7 July 2020

1. Situation Overview

Global cases: 11,468,979 confirmed. **Global deaths:** 535,181 deaths confirmed. **Countries, areas or territories with cases:** 216 (as of 7 July, [WHO](#)). COVID-19 cases and deaths continue rising globally. [Trends are worsening in Brazil, India, Mexico and the U.S.](#), among others. Some countries experiencing a resurgence in infections [partially reinstate lockdowns](#). WHO Director-General emphasized again the importance for governments of [taking a comprehensive approach to responding to the pandemic](#): “Not testing alone. Not physical distancing alone. Not contact tracing alone. Not masks alone. Do it all,” he urged. On 4 July, WHO announced [the trial’s hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir treatment arms for COVID-19 were discontinued](#). On the HIV front line, a [WHO survey](#) showed 73 countries were at risk of running out of HIV medication due to COVID-19, echoing the main findings of the latest [UNAIDS report on the global AIDS epidemic](#): 2020 targets will not be met because of deeply unequal success; COVID-19 risks are pushing HIV progress way off course. The [AIDS 2020 conference](#) starting this week will draw on best practices, strong partnerships and shared experiences to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 disruptions to HIV services.

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

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 [COVID-19 Key Messages and Talking Points](#) for more detail.

Latest updates:

- **Immediate funding:** To date, US\$400.2 million is approved for 95 countries and 8 multicountry programs through the COVID-19 Response Mechanism and grant flexibilities. All approved requests follow WHO guidance on preparedness and early response. Our [report](#) details approved funding by country.
 - **COVID-19 Response Mechanism:** COVID-19 Response Mechanism: US\$228.2 million in immediate funding is approved for 50 countries and 3 multicountry programs through the [COVID-19 Response Mechanism](#). Country Coordinating Mechanisms continue to submit funding requests, and the Global Fund reviews them within 10 business days. Countries are currently being notified of their funding request outcomes. After countries are notified, they are added to our list of countries with funding approved.
 - **COVID-19 grant flexibilities:** US\$172 million is approved for 91 countries and 8 multicountry programs through [grant flexibilities](#). The source of funds is almost exclusively from savings from existing grants, thus no negative impact on ongoing Global Fund-supported programs. The majority of countries implementing Global Fund grants are using 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, the Global Fund updated the [funding request submission dates](#) in 2020.
- The review of nearly 40 funding requests in window 2c has started on 30 June. The progress of submitted and registered funding requests is captured in our [tracker](#).
- The [Technical Review Panel provided new lessons and recommendations](#) for applicants and technical partners in its new report on the first funding requests in the 2020-2022 allocation period. The [report](#) ([Español](#) | [Français](#)) also includes a statement on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2 Operational Guidance for Countries

- The Global Fund incorporated [flexibilities for current and upcoming grants](#) and shares guidance notes on adapting processes.
- Updated: [guidance summary for Country Coordinating Mechanisms](#)

3.3 COVID-19 Impact on HIV, TB, Malaria, Communities, Rights and Gender

- The Global Fund maintains a list of relevant [WHO and technical partner guidance](#).
- Global Fund investments and advice to implementers, shared through a series of [information and guidance notes](#), strictly follow WHO guidelines.
- The [COVID-19 Guidance Note on Community, Rights and Gender](#) is also available in [Spanish](#), [French](#) and [Russian](#).
- Country-based Local Fund Agents, who monitor grant implementation and progress on behalf of the Global Fund, complete a [biweekly Local Fund Agent survey](#) online to help identify potential risks and disruptions to programs.

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

- [“We cannot go backwards”: Peter Sands’ opening remarks at the HIV2020 Conference](#) on 6 July set a course for adapting and uniting the fight against HIV amid the pandemic.
- [AIDS 2020: Going Forward in Partnership](#) : the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the global health landscape for HIV. In a video, leaders and advocates from civil society and private sector call to unite the fight against the disease.
- The [AIDS2020 Communications and Social Media Toolkit \(EN\)](#) is available.
- [COVID-19 Key Messages and Talking Points](#) are updated regularly.
- [Global Fund Newsletter](#) (German)

5. Media and Communications

• Stories and case studies:

- [Lifeline During Lockdown: Delivering Medicines During COVID-19](#): In Zimbabwe, ROOTS Africa is helping communities accessing and affording enough food and medicine by providing care door to door.

• In the news:

- [Millions of Lives at Risk Due to Projected Shortage of HIV Medication: UNAIDS](#), CGTN Africa, By Jerry Omondi, 22 June 2020
- [Africa's Unsung Army of Women Wage War on COVID-19](#), Thomson Reuters Foundation, By Nita Bhalla and Emeline Wuilbercq, 26 June 2020
- [Global COVID-19 Fundraising Meeting Raises \\$6.9 Billion](#), Reuters, By Foo Yun Chee, 27 June 2020
- [Flattening the Malaria And COVID-19 Curves](#), The Hill – U.S., By Josh Blumenfeld and Margaret Reilly McDonnell, 30 June 2020
- [Bangladesh: GeneXpert TB testing machines to test COVID-19](#), New Age – Bangladesh, By Manzur H Maswood, 1 July 2020
- [Out of Tragedy Comes Opportunity: How Can Global Health Multilateralism Seize the Moment?](#), Center for Global Development, By Julia Kaufman, Alexander Winch, Shu-Shu Tekle-Haimanot, Kalipso Chalkidou, 2 July 2020
- [Swapping Production of Malaria Tests for Covid-19 Tests Requires an Urgent Response](#), BMJ, By Arlene Chua and Erwan Piriou, 2 July 2020
- [It's Time to Convene Nations to End This Pandemic](#), The Lancet, 4 July 2020
- [Efforts to beat the coronavirus pandemic could cause over 1 million extra deaths from other diseases, experts warn](#), CNN, By Meera Senthilingam, 6 July 2020

• On social media:

- [Lifeline During Lockdown: Delivering Medicine During COVID-19](#)
- [Peter Sands joins the Opening Plenary Session of the HIV2020 Conference](#)
- [#AIDS2020Virtual Kicks Off](#)

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.

7. Key Resources

- [Global Fund COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [Global Fund Unite to Fight webpage](#)
- [WHO Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic webpage](#)