Global Overview

Total Deaths: 1,694,128
Total Cases: 76,023,488

as of 22 December – Source: WHO

Donors have generously contributed new funding for the global fight against COVID-19 in the world’s poorest and vulnerable countries. Canada announced CAD 485 million for the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, including CAD 65 million to the Global Fund. Denmark, Norway and Sweden respectively pledged DKK 25 million, NOK 285.2 million and SEK 100 million – a total of US$892 billion in COVID-19 relief measures, including significant funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged an additional US$250 million for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. However, the global response is still vastly underfunded. As of 21 December, the Global Fund had awarded nearly US$1 billion to 106 countries to fight COVID-19, but all available additional funds to fight COVID-19 have now been fully deployed. At the third ACT-A facilitation council meeting, the WHO Director-General highlighted the need for urgent financial and political action to fully finance the ACT-Accelerator, and WHO and partners discussed new financing mechanisms to help fill the funding gap.

COVAX announced that all COVAX’s 190 participating and eligible countries would be able to access COVID-19 vaccine doses to protect vulnerable groups in the first half of 2021, including at least 1.3 billion donor-funded doses to 92 low- and middle-income countries. As cases surged in some of the most populous African countries and a new COVID-19 strain appeared in South Africa, a survey conducted by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention shows a majority of Africans would accept to take a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.

Global Fund Response: At a Glance

- Total funds approved to date: US$980 million
- Countries receiving Global Fund support for COVID-19: 106 countries and 14 multicountry programs
- Total funds raised to date: US$259 million
- Fundraising target: An additional US$5 billion over 12 months

How countries are using COVID-19 Response Mechanism support:
- 55%: Reinforcing national COVID-19 response
- 34%: Mitigating COVID-19 impact on HIV, TB and malaria programs
- 11%: Urgent improvements in health and community systems

How countries are using grant flexibilities*:
- 59%: Reinforcing national COVID-19 response
- 32%: Mitigating COVID-19 impact on HIV, TB and malaria programs
- 9%: Urgent improvements in health and community systems

* NOTE: Percentages based on data from 15 countries which cover more than 50% of the total amount of grant flexibilities.
The Global Fund has awarded nearly US$1 billion to 106 countries to support their responses to COVID-19, but has now fully deployed all its funding for this purpose. There are significant further needs for immediate funding, including for personal protective equipment (PPE), testing and treatment, and to mitigate the impact on lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs. Unfunded country requests for support now amount to over US$355 million.

Funding Approved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant flexibilities</th>
<th>COVID-19 Response Mechanism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of funds remains mostly from grant savings, focused mainly on infection control, diagnostics activities &amp; products, and lab equipment; reprogramming requests approved in small number of cases.</td>
<td>Funding requests approved: 105 and 46 top-up requests</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funding remaining: US$0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Projected funding gap: US$355 million</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Demand for funding has exceeded available funds. Countries are continuing to submit urgent requests for funding, and requests are expected to rise.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total approved US$980 million

US$221 million

US$759 million

NOTE: Full list of countries with approved funding is available here. The totals in the online table may differ from the table above because countries are only added to the online list once they have been officially notified of funding approval.

In response to COVID-19 the Global Fund has awarded an additional US$980 million to 106 low- and middle-income countries and 14 multicountry programs in 2020. The final US$41.5 million was approved on 21 December. The awards for COVID-19 are on top of the approximately US$4 billion the Global Fund has invested in its core HIV, TB and malaria programs this year.

Countries are using the funds awarded as part of the Global Fund’s COVID-19 response to:

- **Reinforce national COVID-19 responses**, including purchasing critical tests, treatments and medical supplies; protecting frontline health workers with training and PPE like gloves and masks; and supporting control and containment interventions, including test, trace and treat/isolate;

- **Mitigate COVID-19 impact on lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs**, including by delivering medicines, mosquito nets and critical supplies door to door, protecting community health workers and providing support and prevention services via digital platforms;

- **Make urgent improvements to health and community systems** to help fight COVID-19, HIV, TB and malaria, including by reinforcing supply chains, laboratory networks and community-led response systems.

The Global Fund partnership moved swiftly to help countries respond to COVID-19, providing millions of tests and PPE, and enabling rapid adaption of HIV, TB and malaria programs. In addition to redeployed internal funds, the Global Fund’s COVID-19 response received US$259 million from donors including Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway and the FIFA Foundation.

“We are extremely grateful to the donors who, even while fighting the virus at home, contributed extra funding to fight COVID-19 in the world’s poorest and most vulnerable countries,” said Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund. “We are struck by what countries and communities have accomplished to fight the new virus and protect hard-won gains in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria. But the tragedy is that just as new COVID-19 tools are becoming available, and as needs are on the rise, there is no money left on the table.

“While the fantastic news on vaccines provides a light at the end of the tunnel, we must not let this blind us to the reality that the tunnel ahead remains long, dark and dangerous, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable communities,” Sands continued. “We must continue to step up investment in testing, treatment, and PPE. And we must recognize that in some countries, the knock-on impact of the pandemic on HIV, TB and malaria may exceed the direct impact.”

The Global Fund has estimated that it needs a further US$5 billion on top of its core funding to support countries in responding to the pandemic. This figure represents part of the overall financing needs of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator), the global collaborative partnership in which the Global Fund plays a leading role.

The Global Fund is extremely appreciative of the continued support of donors for its core funding, as pledges made at the record-breaking Replenishment Conference in Lyon in October 2019 are converted into cash contributions. Sustaining funding levels for the fight against HIV, TB and malaria is vital at a moment when disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic threaten to reverse many years of progress.
Global Fund Response
In Depth

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 tests, treatments and vaccines once available. As part of the ACT-Accelerator, we are a co-convener 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.

Protecting Front-line Health Workers: The Global Fund is providing funding to countries to purchase personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and gowns. Countries can purchase equipment locally or can place orders for price-assured quality health products through our Pooled Procurement Mechanism or on wambo.org, the Global Fund’s online sourcing portal.

- **US$202 million** of COVID-19 Response Mechanism funds have been allocated for the provision of personal protective equipment (PPEs)
- **46 countries** have purchased PPEs on wambo.org

### Additional Resources:
- [Personal Protective Equipment Procurement](#)
- [Key Personal Protective Equipment: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [List of Personal Protective Equipment and Oxygen Products Available for Procurement via Wambo.org](#)
- [Category and Product-Level Procurement and Delivery Planning Guide: Indicative Lead Times](#)
- [COVID-19 Impact on Health Product Supply: Assessment and Recommendations](#)

Diagnostics: The Global Fund is the co-lead of the ACT-Accelerator Diagnostics Pillar, along with FIND. We also co-lead the WHO Diagnostics Consortium along with UNICEF to negotiate pricing and procure molecular diagnostic tests for COVID-19. To scale up Ag RDTs, the Global Fund has made available an initial **US$50 million** from its COVID-19 Response Mechanism to enable countries to purchase at least 10 million of the new rapid tests for LMICs at the guaranteed price. The Global Fund is supporting countries and partners to develop and implement national testing strategies using a combination of PCR and Ag RDT tests.

- **US$117 million** of COVID-19 Response Mechanism funds have been allocated for the provision of diagnostics tests. To date, more than **6.5 million** requisitions for diagnostics tests (PCR and Ag RDT) have been placed across a total of 78 countries, including:
  - **2.5 million** requisitions have been placed for automated PCR diagnostic tests across **78** countries
  - **4 million** requisitions have been placed for Ag RDT tests across **18** countries
  - **360,000** requisitions have been placed for manual PCR diagnostic tests

### Additional Resources:
- [Scaling-up Testing with Antigen-Detection Diagnostics](#)
- [Ordering COVID-19 Diagnostics through the Global Fund: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [List of SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic Test Kits and Equipment Eligible for Procurement](#)
- [PPM Reference Price List for COVID-19 Diagnostics](#)

Treatment: Following WHO recommendation, the Global Fund is supporting the use of corticosteroids for COVID-19. Global Fund implementers can include corticosteroids for COVID-19 in COVID-19 funding requests. Corticosteroids are a standard medication in most countries and available for local purchase, and many countries and partners had existing stock.
ACT-Accelerator:
The ACT-Accelerator is making significant progress. We have advanced our understanding of what works to fight the disease. We have new vaccine efficacy data being announced, new diagnostic tests that provide results in less than 30 minutes and strong evidence that dexamethasone treats the disease, while trials on other new medicines such as monoclonal antibodies are advancing quickly. Further, clinical practice has advanced in understanding how oxygen, PPE, and overall health system capabilities can be best used to improve a patient’s chances of recovery.

By the end of 2021, the ACT-Accelerator aims to deliver 500 million diagnostic tests, 245 million courses of treatment and 2 billion doses of vaccine to low- and middle-income countries.

Diagnostics Pillar update:
- Over 40 million COVID-19 tests (28 million PCR tests and 12 million Ag RDTs tests) have been procured for low- and middle-income.
- 120 million affordable, quality COVID-19 rapid tests have been secured for low- and middle-income countries, but the Diagnostics Pillar only has enough funding to purchase 16 million of those tests.
- Over 50 diagnostic tests are currently being evaluated.
- Over 23,000 health care workers are being trained in almost 200 countries to effectively implement the tests.

Therapeutics Pillar update:
- 3.2 million lifesaving dexamethasone treatments have been supplied.
- Manufacturing capacities are reserved for scale-up of monoclonal antibodies while research into monoclonal is advancing.
- Approximately 20 treatments – new medication in development and existing medication repurposed to treat COVID-19 – are under close review, and more are in the development pipeline.

Health Systems Connector Pillar update:
- The Health Systems Connector (HSC) aims to support countries on key health systems enablers as well as be the vehicle to make oxygen and personal protective equipment available as high priority commodities, especially in low and low-middle-income countries (LMICs). Systems requirements for delivery of COVID-19 tools have been mapped in four out of six world regions.
- US$200 million worth of personal protective equipment (PPE) has been procured for LMICs. This is enough to purchase 73 million daily basic PPE kits of gloves and masks for health workers.

ACT-Accelerator funding update:
Out of the US$38 billion needed, over US$5.6 billion has so far been committed to the ACT-Accelerator (through the Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics pillars and the Health Systems Connector) and US$5 billion committed to COVAX. The ACT-Accelerator Commitment Tracker provides details on total commitments to date.

As of 21 December 2020, US$3.7 billion is urgently needed to accelerate immediate progress, with a further US$23.9 billion required in 2021, if tools are to be deployed across the world as they become available. Without contributions from advanced economies to fill that gap, the ACT-Accelerator will not be able to provide low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) with the lifesaving tests, treatments, and vaccines they need. Bridging the funding gap will help save 3,000 lives per day and restore the global economy.

Now is the pivotal moment to move fast for the mass rollout of these tools. Manufacturing capacity needs to be rapidly reserved, regulatory pathways accelerated, and delivery systems secured. All of this must happen now to avoid long delays in future and corresponding delays to the end of the crisis, but the urgent financing gap threatens the world’s ability to tackle the virus.

Diagnostics pillar:
The Diagnostics Pillar requires total funding of US$6 billion. To date, US$705 million has been raised. Funds are needed urgently to:
- Accelerate the diagnostic innovation needed to rebuild lives and restore economies by driving development of transformative, low-cost self-tests and digital solutions (US$146 million);
- Catalyze equitable deployment by ensuring countries, businesses and people can take up these products effectively (US$218 million);
- Support countries that cannot shoulder the costs alone by providing procurement funding (US$761 million).

Beyond March 2021, the focus will be on making a mass-produced, US$0.50 test available to everyone, everywhere, with 500 million tests deployed to LIC/LMICs by mid-2021.
Therapeutics Pillar:

The Therapeutics Pillar requires a total of **US$6.6 billion** through end-2021. To date, **US$666 million** has been raised. The Therapeutics Pillar investment case beyond March 2021 is built to enable flexible support for R&D, market preparation, and deployment at-scale for any therapeutics assets with positive clinical data.

Health Systems Connector:

The Health Systems Connector requires a total of **US$9.5 billion**. To date, **US$361 million** has been raised. Funds are urgently needed to facilitate access to PPE and oxygen. As country readiness is an absolute prerequisite to the equitable scale-up of other COVID-19 tools, **US$89 million** is needed urgently to support these health systems activities.

Additional Resources:

- Statement of the Co-Chairs of the 3rd Meeting of the ACT-A Facilitation Council
- ACT-Accelerator Commitment Tracker
- Chairs’ Summary of the 2nd Meeting of the ACT-A Facilitation Council
- Letter to the G20
- Urgent Priorities & Financing Requirements at 10 November 2020
- ACT-A Status Report & Plan
- ACT-A Economic Investment Case and Financing Requirements
- ACT-A Diagnostics Partnership Investment Case
- ACT-A Therapeutics Partnership Investment Case
- ACT-A Vaccines Pillar (COVAX)
As of 11 December 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.

Country-based Local Fund Agents, who monitor grant implementation and progress on behalf of the Global Fund, complete a biweekly survey online to help identify potential risks and disruptions to programs. The tool is not meant to be a rigorous assessment of the country situation. The data is based on in-country stakeholder views but not on verified data. Key insights as of 15 December 2020:

**Countries in lockdown:** The situation has remained unchanged compared to 1 December, with 36% of countries where the Global Fund invests experiencing nationwide lockdowns on 15 December. However, the percentage of countries which do not experience any restrictions has decreased from 24% on 1 December to 21% on 15 December.

**Costed national plans:** 83% of countries have costed response plans in place for their COVID-19 response, the same percentage as on 1 December.

**Disruption to health service delivery:** Around 15% of countries are still reporting high disruption in service delivery for all three components. Decreased attendance at health facilities continues to be the biggest issue, impacting all three disease programs and affecting the cascade of care. On HIV, service delivery has slightly deteriorated with 3% of countries reporting very high disruption on 15 December, up from 2% on 1 December. On malaria, nearly 50% of the countries where the Global Fund invests have reported no or low disruption to health service delivery, compared to only 29% for HIV and 26% for TB.
Disruption to supply of key medicines: For all three components, more than 15% of countries where the Global Fund invests report only a 0-3 months’ supply capacity. 6% of countries are still experiencing shortages of HIV health products.

Lab services: The trend continues to improve, with 43% of countries reporting no or low HIV and/or TB lab services disruption, up from 40% on 1 December and from 35% on 1 November.

Availability of national stock
Average Score of Countries

HIV and/or TB lab services disruption

Disruption Level:
- Very High disruption
- High disruption
- Moderate disruption
- No/low disruption
- 0-3 month supply
- 3-6 month supply
- 6+ month supply
- Don’t know
Global Fund Response
Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and Malaria

In just 12 months, the COVID-19 pandemic has spread across the world and collided with existing epidemics, straining many health systems to the breaking point. The pandemic has exposed ugly inequalities, put vulnerable communities at greater risk, disrupted economies and claimed more than 1.6 million lives. No country or community has been left untouched.

At great risk to their own lives, health workers have stepped forward without hesitation to shoulder this extraordinary burden, all while continuing their lifesaving work in the fight against other diseases.

As we turn the page on 2020, we look at the incredible work of these hero health workers.

Lockdowns and restrictions on public transportation make it harder for many people living with HIV to access lifesaving medicines and treatment.

In Ukraine, the Global Fund supports an initiative by CO “100% LIFE,” a local HIV community network, which organizes courier services to deliver antiretroviral therapy and other medicines to homes via the postal service. People living with HIV in remote areas where postal services are not available are not left out either – their medication is delivered by car.

Malaria is the leading cause of death in Burundi. In 2020, health teams have spent months racing to ensure the country was prepared to protect communities from the disease despite the challenges of COVID-19. Thanks to the tireless efforts of community health workers, more than 6.8 million mosquito nets were distributed. The community health workers were at the forefront as mobile clinics were deployed to remote communities and indoor residual spraying was done in nine of the most affected districts.

For Kiki, a transgender woman living in Yaoundé, Cameroon, the constant threat of violence and arrest while being stigmatized and shunned is part of everyday life.

Diseases like HIV and COVID-19 expose the barriers and inequities that the most marginalized communities face accessing their right to health care.

But these barriers haven’t held Kiki back from working and advocating to protect the rights of people in her community.

Kiki’s Story: Defending Transgender Rights During COVID-19 in Cameroon

During COVID-19, HIV Medication in Ukraine Arrives by Post

When Health Crises Collide – Tackling Malaria, COVID-19 and Ebola in Burundi (UNDP)
Global Fund Response
Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and Malaria

Aftab’s Story: Fighting TB in the Shadow of COVID-19 in India

Aftab Ansari spent years fighting for his life after being diagnosed with extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis. After taking treatment and through hope and determination, he fully recovered. But today he may be facing an even bigger challenge: helping others survive the same disease in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Kenya and Beyond: Guardians of a Continent

The crucial role community health workers play as guardians of community health has come into clear focus as COVID-19 has accelerated across Africa. Over the years, community health workers have led the fight against killers such as malaria, HIV and TB. Now they have enlisted themselves to the fight against the new pandemic. The health of millions of people in Africa’s rural areas hinges on the social capital and trust built around these community health workers – many of whom are unpaid volunteers.

Myanmar Makes Major Progress Fighting Malaria

Ten years ago, more than 3,800 people died from malaria in Myanmar every year. Today, that number has dropped to approximately 170. Much of this progress has been made through the tireless efforts of 17,000 malaria health volunteers providing rapid testing and treatment and extending vital community-based education through national antimalaria campaigns.

In Nigeria, Health Workers Tackle Stigma and Misconceptions as They Fight TB and COVID-19

“In the past, people would listen to us, but now people are scared. They are not ready to give us their samples... Some people don’t want to work with us anymore, they just send us away. They say we are coming to isolate them.” - Sewande Jekenu, community tuberculosis worker

In Nigeria, the misconceptions surrounding COVID-19 and tuberculosis – which can have some similar initial symptoms – are a new hurdle for health workers fighting TB.
Global Fund Response
Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and Malaria

IN FOCUS
HERO HEALTH WORKERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

South Africa: Nombasa’s Fight Against HIV, TB and COVID-19

Nombasa Krune-Dumile is a front-line health worker living with HIV in Cape Town, South Africa. After beating tuberculosis and COVID-19, she is back in the trenches, helping others overcome three diseases.

Nombasa has an urgent appeal to governments and global health partners: “Health workers need training and more PPE to protect themselves and their families. That support is needed now.”

Living Through Lockdown in Panama (UNDP)

Isolated in their homes for six months, sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender people faced a frightening new reality of missing their lifesaving HIV services. Community outreach workers and local organizations like the New Men and Women Association of Panama have stepped in to help with this challenge. They are using social media and digital apps to provide counseling and to direct people to safe locations for HIV services and testing.

The Hidden Tragedy of COVID-19 on Adolescent Girls in Malawi

“Restrictions on movement and school closures – while successful in halting the spread of COVID-19 in Malawi – contributed considerably to fueling a pandemic of violence against adolescent girls and young women behind closed doors, threatening to reverse decades of progress in the fights against HIV and gender inequality.”

Grace Ngulube, a 24-year-old community worker and activist living with HIV, traveled across her home country to hear first-hand the devastating impact COVID-19 is having on adolescent girls and young women.
Global Fund Response
Communications, Media and Events

Communications Products

- **News Releases:**
  - Global Fund has awarded US$1 billion to fight COVID-19, but available funding for COVID-19 is now exhausted [ENG](#)
  - Denmark, Norway and Sweden Support Global Fund's COVID-19 Response By Contributing a Total US$45 million [ENG][FRA]
  - Canada Contributes CAD 65 million to Global Fund's COVID-19 Response [ENG][FRA]

- **Stories and videos:**
  - Kiki’s story: defending transgender rights during COVID-19 in Cameroon [ENG][FRA][Video]
  - A Look Back at 2020 - Hero Health Workers in the Spotlight [ENG][FRA]

- **Op-eds:**
  - Put Human Rights at the Centre of our Battle Against COVID-19, By Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund, and Antonio Zappulla, CEO of the Thomson Reuters Foundation [ENG][FRA]

In the News

- Health and Human Rights Journal - 8 December 2020 - [An invitation to a feminist approach to global health data](#)
- The Mail & Guardian - 10 December 2020 - [Peter Sands and Antonio Zapulla: Put human rights at the centre of our battle against Covid-19](#)
- Devex - 10 December 2020 - [Global Fund chief on COVID-19 funding, global health security](#)
- The East African - 14 December 2020 - [Kaberuka: We need $12b; we cannot wait for charity as we did with HIV](#)
- The Hill - 15 December 2020 - [Global Funding must be in the next COVID-19 emergency supplemental](#)
- El Pais - 16 December 2020 - [An entire continent without medicine. Can sub-Saharan Africa produce its own drugs?](#)
- Devex - 18 December 2020 - [If COVID-19 changes finance, will that help development funding?](#)
On Social Media
- @GlobalFund - #lookback on the extraordinary work of hero health workers
- @GlobalFund - Thank you Norway
- @GlobalFund - Kiki’s Story
- @GlobalFund - Thank you Canada
- @GlobalFund - #UHCDay
- @MSuzman - The world knows how to reach people with life-saving tools
- @GlobalFund - Sweden joins Global Fund for Human Rights Day
- @GlobalFund - #COVID19 has exacerbated #humanrights violations related to health
- @GlobalFund - Aftab’s story

Partners’ Publications
- 21 December: UNICEF - COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard
- 9 December: WHO - Global Health Expenditure Report 2020
- 9 December: Unitaid - Advancing global health in the age of COVID-19

Upcoming Events
- 21–22 January 2021: G20 1st Sherpa Meeting
- 25 January 2021: G20 1st Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting
- 26-27 January 2021: 1st G20 Health Working Group meeting
- 26-29 January 2021: World Economic Forum virtual. This event may include a side event with the Global Fund and FIND on diagnostics.
- 1 February 2021: Roundtable with ACT-Accelerator principals and CEOs co-hosted by Global Citizen and the International Chamber of Commerce (initially planned 9 December 2020). Speakers may include: Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund; Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Board Chair of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Dr. Jeremy Farrar, Director of the Wellcome Trust; Dr. Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; representatives from governments, private sector, and communities.
- 2 February 2021: IAS COVID-19 Conference
- 27 February: 1st Finance Ministers and Central Banks Governors Meeting