

COVID-19 Situation Report #38

Reporting period 29 January 2021 – 12 February 2021

Global Overview

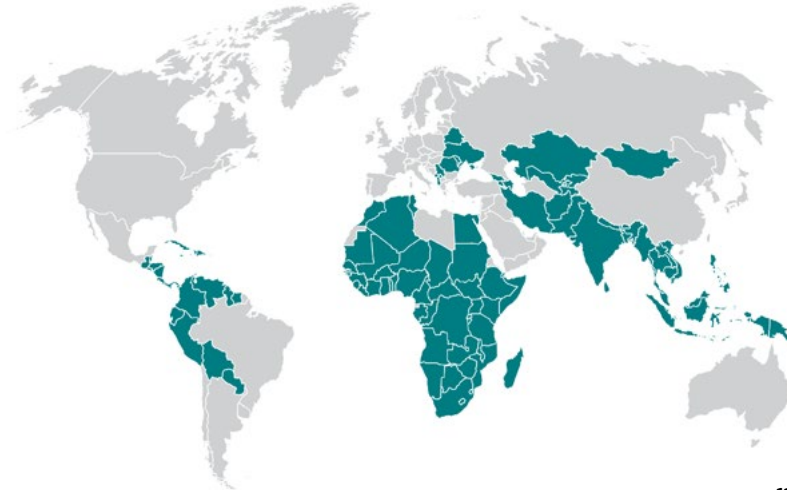
<p>TOTAL DEATHS: 2,347,015</p>	<p>TOTAL CASES: 106,991,090</p>
<p><i>as of 11 February – Source: WHO</i></p>	

In a [joint statement](#), world leaders called the COVID-19 pandemic the “greatest test of solidarity in generations” and appealed for multilateralism. The heads of the WHO and UNICEF made an [urgent appeal](#) for vaccine solidarity while the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator high-level meeting for finance ministries [urged](#) guidance and leadership from the G20, G7 and other players. The ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council unveiled [four strategic priorities and an updated detailed budget](#) for the ACT-Accelerator in 2021. [COVAX’s first interim distribution forecast](#) was published. COVAX aims to distribute at least 330 million COVID-19 vaccine doses in low- and middle-income countries – including nearly [90 million doses for countries in Africa](#) – in the first half of 2021 to cover, on average, 3.3% of the total population of the 145 participating countries receiving doses. By the end of 2021, COVAX aims to provide up to [600 million doses](#) to countries in Africa. To complement COVAX efforts, the African Union has secured [670 million vaccine doses](#) for the continent which will be distributed in 2021 and 2022 as countries secure adequate financing.

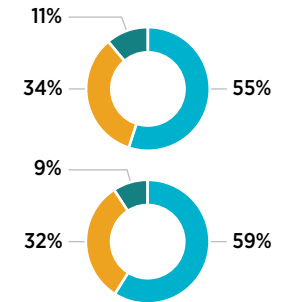
New variants of SARS-CoV-2 continue to spread around the world, raising concern among [global partners](#) and [scientists](#). South Africa has [paused the rollout](#) of AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine after a [study](#) showed it offered reduced protection from the variant first identified in the country. Reacting to the decision, WHO Director-General [said](#) this was “a reminder that we need to do everything we can to reduce circulation of the virus with proven public health measures.” A WHO expert panel [countered](#) concerns over the efficacy of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, insisting that “it’s the right thing to do” to use it – even in countries where variants had surfaced. A [study](#), which has not yet been reviewed by other scientists, found the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine gives strong immune response to new variants of SARS-CoV-2. From Wuhan, a team of international and Chinese scientists working to understand the origins of the COVID-19 virus [declared](#), that the virus most likely first appeared in humans after jumping from an animal.

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 **15** multicountry programs
- ▶ Total funds raised to date: **US\$259 million**
- ▶ Forecasted funding gap: **US\$313 million**
- ▶ Immediate fundraising target: a minimum of **US\$5 billion**



- ▶ **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.

Global Fund Response In Depth

The Global Fund has awarded US\$980 million to 106 countries and 15 multicountry programs to support their responses to COVID-19, but has now fully deployed all its funding for this purpose. Forecasted funding gap is now US\$313 million.

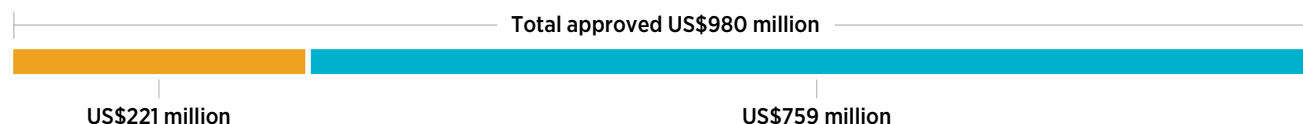
There are significant further needs for immediate funding, including for personal protective equipment (PPE), testing and treatment, and to mitigate the impact on lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs. To defeat COVID-19, the Global Fund advocates a comprehensive approach that brings together testing, treatments, vaccines and the health systems and medical supplies to make it happen – vaccines alone will not be enough.

Testing is the first line of defense against COVID-19. As WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said: *“Access to quality tests and laboratory services is like having a good radar system that gets you where you need to go. Without it, you’re flying blind.”*

New mutations of the virus underscore the urgent need to contain COVID-19 in all countries. Even if wealthier countries succeed in rapidly rolling out vaccine and containment campaigns, if we do not do the same in low- and middle-income countries at the same time, the virus will continue to mutate and will pose a new threat to everyone – even countries that manage to control the original COVID-19 strain.

Investing in formal and community health systems worldwide is critical to our global health security, and is the only way we will fight existing epidemics like HIV, TB and malaria, new pandemics like COVID-19, and future health threats. According to [a recent study in the medical journal The Lancet](#), over one-third of the Global Fund’s work supports global health security by helping countries prepare for, detect and respond to public health emergencies through funding of laboratory systems, fighting antimicrobial resistance, and the deployment of medical countermeasures and personnel.

Funding Approved



▶ Grant flexibilities

Use of funds remains mostly from grant savings, focused mainly on infection control, diagnostics activities & products, and lab equipment; reprogramming requests approved in small number of cases.

▶ COVID-19 Response Mechanism

- ▶ Funding requests received: **105** and **55** top-up requests
- ▶ Funding requests funded: **93** and **46** top-up requests
- ▶ Funding remaining: **US\$0**
- ▶ Projected funding gap: **US\$313 million**

Demand for funding has exceeded available funds. Countries are continuing to submit urgent requests for funding, and requests are expected to rise.

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.

The Global Fund has estimated that it urgently needs at least **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.

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 front-line 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.

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.

Global Fund Response In Depth



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.

- ▶ **US\$276 million** of COVID-19 Response Mechanism funds have been allocated for the provision of personal protective equipment (PPEs). This is enough to purchase more than 100 million daily PPE kits for front-line health workers.
- ▶ **49** countries have purchased PPEs on wambo.org

Additional Resources:

- ▶ [COVID-19 Impact on Health Product Supply: Assessment and Recommendations](#)
- ▶ [Personal Protective Equipment Procurement](#)
- ▶ [Update for PRs on Placing Orders and Procuring COVID-19 Products in 2021](#)
- ▶ [List of Personal Protective Equipment and Oxygen Products Available for Procurement via Wambo.org](#)
- ▶ [List of Oxygen Products via Wambo.org](#)
- ▶ [Procurement Advice](#)



Diagnostics: The Global Fund is supporting countries and partners to develop and implement national testing strategies using a combination of PCR and Ag RDT tests. In addition, the Global Fund has leveraged its laboratory infrastructure initially designed for tuberculosis diagnosis and HIV viral load testing to immediately respond to COVID-19. The scaling up of an installed base of over 10,000 Cepheid's GeneXpert molecular diagnostic devices in laboratories across low- and middle-income countries, and the technicians trained to operate them, has enabled these countries to massively expand their COVID-19 testing capacities since the beginning of the pandemic.

- ▶ **US\$182 million** of COVID-19 Response Mechanism funds have been allocated for the provision of diagnostics tests.
- ▶ To date, **14.1 million** requisitions for diagnostics tests (PCR and Ag RDT) have been placed across a total of **78** countries, including:
 - ▶ Requisitions for **2.9 million** automated PCR diagnostic tests across **78** countries
 - ▶ Requisitions for **10.8 million** Ag RDT tests across **25** countries
 - ▶ Requisitions for **400,000** 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](#)
- ▶ [Interim Quality Assurance Requirements for the Procurement of COVID-19 Diagnostic Products](#)
- ▶ [Diagnostics Consortium for Cepheid GeneXpert COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction Tests for the 2 million tests for the 6 months allocation period](#)
- ▶ [Antigen-detection in the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection using rapid immunoassays](#)



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. Since August 2020, the Global Fund has made available the procurement of oxygen equipment products on wambo.org.

Global Fund Response In Depth

The Global Fund, a founding partner of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator

The Global Fund is a founding partner of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global collaboration of leading public health agencies 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-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. Along with other partners, the Global Fund is actively involved in the WHO Diagnostics Consortium to monitor the supply and demand of molecular and rapid diagnostics tests for COVID-19 and implement the WHO allocation for scarcely available COVID-19 products. 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.

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 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 **900 million** diagnostic tests, **165 million** courses of treatment and **2 billion** doses of vaccine to low- and middle-income countries.

► Diagnostics Pillar update

- Over **46.6 million** COVID-19 tests (**30.4 million** PCR tests and **16.2 million** Ag-RDTs tests) have been procured for low- and middle-income countries.
- Over **23,000** health care workers are being trained in almost **200** countries to effectively implement the tests.
- Independently assessed and benchmarked **over 60** RDTs against quality criteria to inform government procurement of quality COVID-19 tests.
- Fast-tracked access to [120 million affordable, high quality Ag-RDTs for low- and middle-income countries](#).
- Improved regionalized manufacturing and technology transfers to increase global manufacturing capacity of quality and affordable RDTs.

► Therapeutics Pillar update

- **3.2 million** lifesaving dexamethasone treatments have been supplied ([including 2.9 million by UNICEF](#))
- Over **1,700** clinical trials are analyzed for promising treatments.
- Manufacturing capacities are reserved for scale-up of monoclonal antibodies while research into monoclonal is advancing.

► Health Systems Connector update

- The Health Systems Connector (HSC) aims to support countries on key health systems enablers as well as be the vehicle to make personal protective equipment and medical oxygen available as high priority commodities, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Systems requirements for delivery of COVID-19 tools have been mapped in **four out of six world regions**, and country readiness assessments for tool rollout are being conducted in more than **100** countries.
- **US\$276 million** worth of personal protective equipment (PPE) has been procured for LMICs (through the Global Fund). This is enough to purchase **more than 100 million** daily basic PPE kits of gloves and masks for health workers.

Global Fund Response In Depth

THE NEW ACT-ACCELERATOR PRIORITIZED STRATEGY & BUDGET FOR 2021

On 12 February, the ACT-Accelerator published its revised [Prioritized Strategy and Budget for 2021](#). In brief:

► Three major shifts

Three big shifts inform the 2021 ACT-Accelerator Strategy & Budget:

- **We have entered the era of COVID-19 vaccines.**
- **Viral variants are emerging with increasingly concerning characteristics.**
- **International collaboration is increasingly fragmented and underinvesting in global solutions.**

A strong global, integrated and agile response is crucial: scaling up tools while adapting to an evolving context.

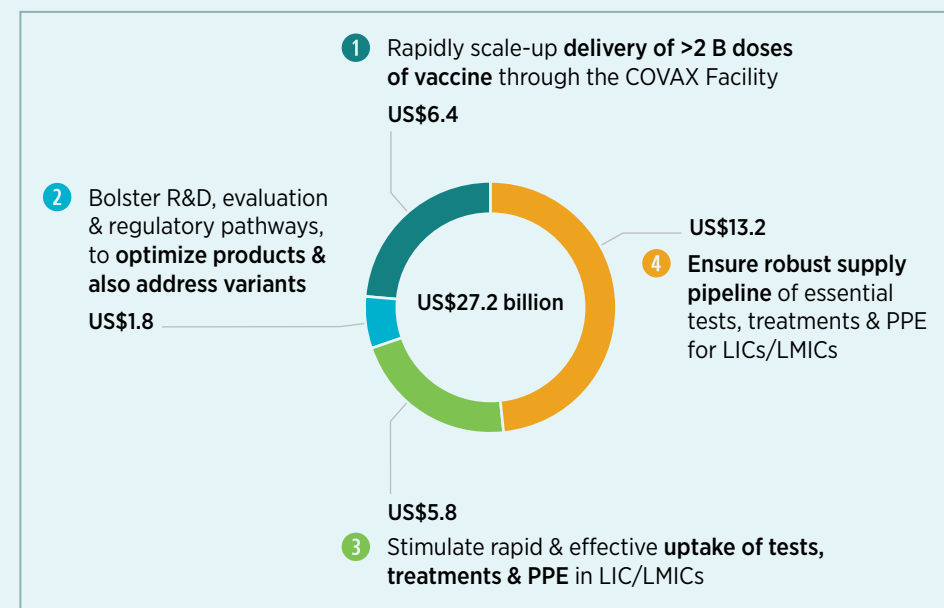
► Four strategic priorities

The new ACT-Accelerator Prioritized Strategy & Budget for 2021 highlights four strategic priorities, driving for equity in the delivery and continuous improvement of COVID-19 tools. The first priority is to rapidly scale up the delivery of over 2 billion vaccine doses across the world. The second is to bolster research and development, evaluation and regulatory pathways to optimize products and address the novel COVID-19 variants that have been identified. Thirdly, the strategy prioritizes the rapid and effective uptake of tests, treatments and PPE in low- and middle-income countries. The fourth priority is to ensure a robust supply pipeline of essential tests, treatments and PPE for low- and middle-income countries. These cross-cutting strategic priorities are underpinned by the four pillars that comprise the ACT-Accelerator.

► Funding gap

Over **US\$6 billion** has so far been committed to the ACT-Accelerator (through the Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics pillars and the Health Systems Connector), with an additional **US\$4 billion** in projected funding, and **US\$5 billion** committed to COVAX. The [ACT-Accelerator Commitment Tracker](#) provides details on total commitments to date.

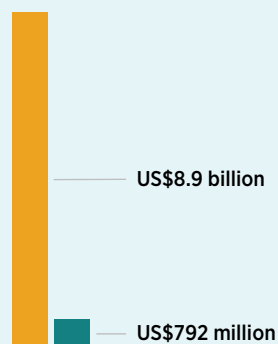
As of **February 2021**, the ACT-Accelerator faces a **US\$27.2 billion** funding gap which will be reduced to **US\$23.2 billion** as projected funds are operationalized. A total **US\$14.2 billion** is urgently needed in the first half of 2021 to accelerate immediate progress.



Global Fund Response In Depth

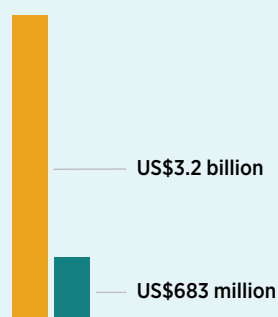
THE NEW ACT-ACCELERATOR PRIORITIZED STRATEGY & BUDGET FOR 2021

- ▶ **The Diagnostics Pillar requires total funding of US\$8.9 billion in 2021. To date, US\$792 million has been raised.** In 2021, testing will play an even more critical role with the spread of new variants. Additional funding will strategically address three main priorities. Firstly, it will drive the development and at-scale availability of affordable, digitally-integrated tests. Secondly, it will secure equitable access to tests to reduce the testing gap between high-income and low-income countries, procuring 900 million tests to contain hotspots and detect the emergence of novel variants. Thirdly, these funds will stimulate rapid and effective country uptake of tests, including capacity building in countries to roll-out testing at scale. 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.

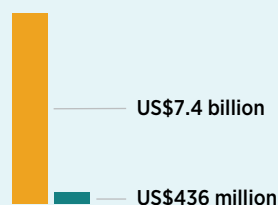


- ▶ **The Therapeutics Pillar requires a total of US\$3.2 billion in 2021. To date, US\$683 million has been raised.** The 2021 strategy prioritizes support for countries in optimizing clinical care and introducing new tools, as well as procurement of existing therapeutics, such as dexamethasone and medical oxygen products. 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.

Note: the costing of medical oxygen equipment is now integrated into the Therapeutics Pillar of the ACT-Accelerator. However, resources needed to operationalize the use of medical oxygen equipment such as health workers and guidelines remain under the Health Systems Connector of the ACT-Accelerator.



- ▶ **The Health Systems Connector requires a total of US\$7.4 billion. To date, US\$436 million has been raised.** As country readiness is an absolute prerequisite to the equitable scale-up of other COVID-19 tools, **US\$3.2 billion** is needed urgently to support these health systems activities. Priority in 2021 is to identify and address bottlenecks in health systems and to make sure that COVID-19 tools are successfully delivered and made available, with a priority on personal protective equipment for front-line workers.



Additional Resources:

- ▶ [ACT-A prioritized strategy and budget for 2021](#)
 - ▶ [A Financial Framework for ACT Accelerator](#)
 - ▶ [Statement of the Co Chairs of the 4th ACT Accelerator Facilitation Council](#)
 - ▶ [Joint press release from Ministers Sanner and Mboweni](#)
 - ▶ [Summary of the Co-Chairs of the 3rd ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council](#)
 - ▶ [Statement of the Co-Chairs of the 3rd Meeting of the ACT-A Facilitation Council](#)
 - ▶ [Chairs' Summary of the 2nd Meeting of the ACT-A Facilitation Council](#)
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- ▶ [Letter to the G20](#)
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- ▶ [ACT-Accelerator Commitment Tracker](#)
 - ▶ [Interactive ACT Accelerator's Funding Commitment Tracker](#)
 - ▶ [ACT-A Status Report & Plan](#)
 - ▶ [ACT-A Diagnostics Partnership Investment Case](#)
 - ▶ [ACT-A Therapeutics Partnership Investment Case](#)
 - ▶ [ACT-A Vaccines Pillar \(COVAX\)](#)
 - ▶ [The ACT-Accelerator frequently asked questions](#)
 - ▶ [Accelerating access to vaccines through the ACT-Accelerator & COVAX](#)
 - ▶ [ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council - Terms of reference](#)

Global Fund Response

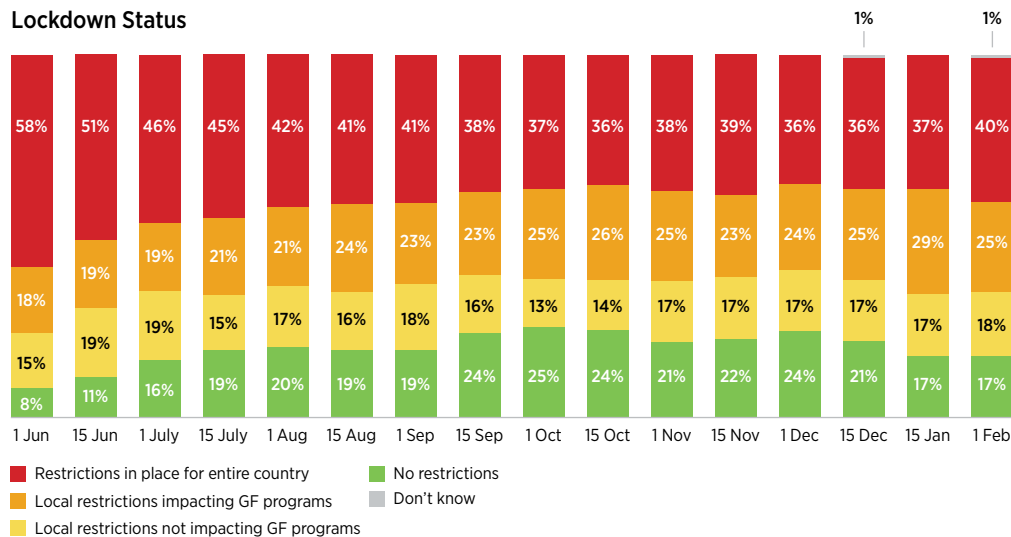
Global Fund COVID-19 Country Monitoring

As of **29 January 2021**, 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 **1 February 2021**:

Countries in lockdown: 40% of countries where the Global Fund invests are experiencing nationwide lockdowns as of 1 February, up from 37% on 15 January. This increase could be due to the need to mitigate the impact of the new variants of SARS-CoV-2. The percentage of countries experiencing local restrictions that impact the programs run by the Global Fund has decreased from 29% on 15 January to 25% on 1 February.

Lockdown Status

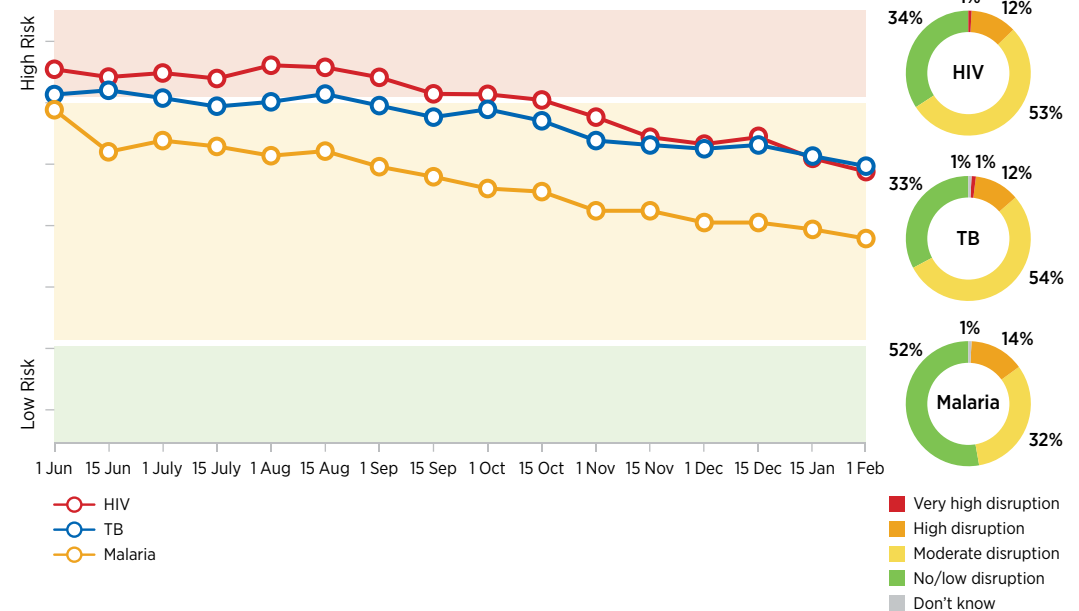


Costed national plans: The percentage of countries that have costed response plans in place for their COVID-19 response remains stable, slightly decreasing from 81% on 15 January to 80% on 1 February. On 1 June 2020, 75% of countries had costed response plans in place for their COVID-19 response.

Disruption to health service delivery: 12% to 14% of countries are reporting high disruption in service delivery for all three components. However, the risk trend continues to decrease for all of them. For malaria, more than half of the countries where the Global Fund invests have reported no or low disruption to health service delivery. 1% of countries are still reporting very high service delivery disruption for HIV and TB components.

Service delivery disruption

Average Score of Countries



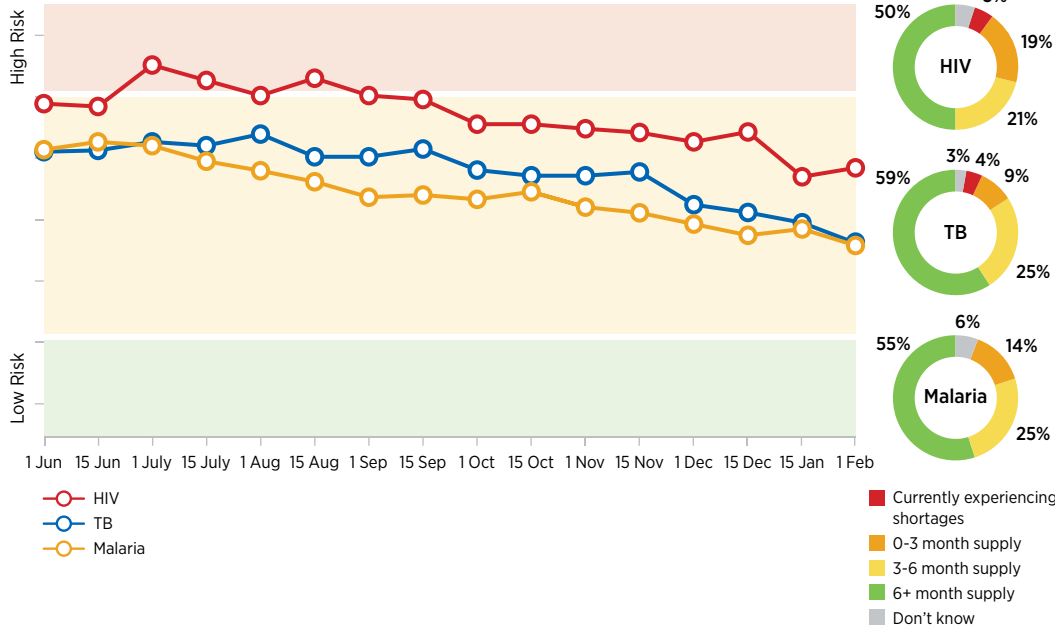
Global Fund Response

Global Fund COVID-19 Country Monitoring

Disruption to supply of key medicines: For all three components, at least half of the countries where the Global Fund invests have a minimum 6 months' supply capacity of key medicines. However, the supply of key HIV and TB medicines has slightly deteriorated, with 5% of countries experiencing shortages of key HIV medicines, up from 3% on 15 January, and 4% of countries experiencing shortages of key TB medicines, up from 3% on 15 January.

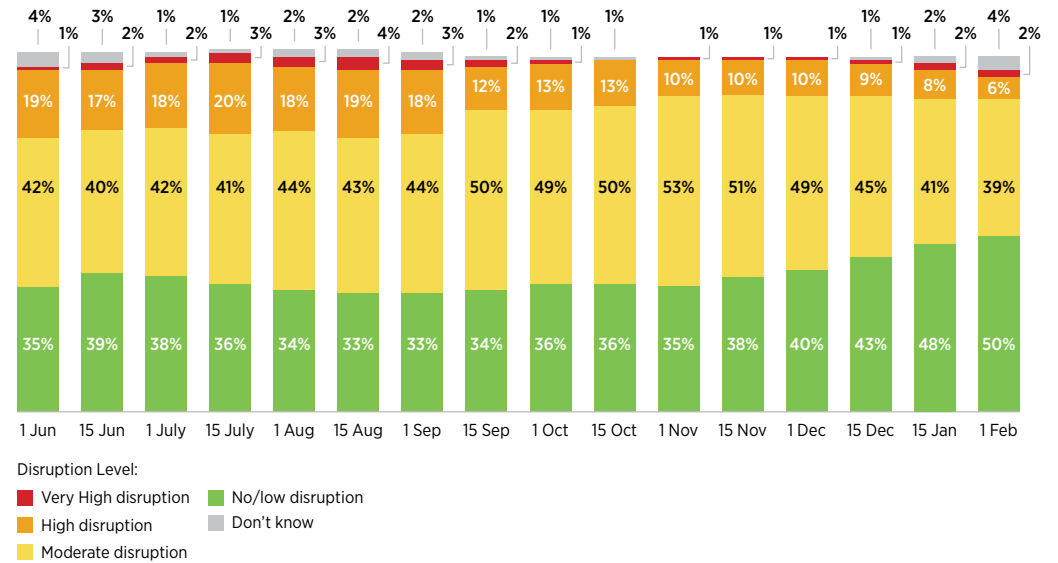
Availability of national stock

Average Score of Countries



Lab services: The trend continues to improve, with now 50% of countries reporting no or low HIV and/or TB lab services disruption, up from 48% on 15 January and from 35% on 1 November 2020. The percentage of countries experiencing high HIV and/or TB lab services disruption has decreased from 8% on 15 January to 6% on 1 February, and from 13% on 1 October 2020.

HIV and/or TB lab services disruption



Disruption Level:

- Very High disruption
- High disruption
- Moderate disruption
- No/low disruption
- Don't know

Global Fund Response

Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and Malaria

IN FOCUS HOW NORWAY AND SOUTH AFRICA SUPPORT THE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 THROUGH THE ACT-ACCELERATOR

Under the unprecedented context of COVID-19, Norway and South Africa have been taking on a leading role in the efforts to beat the pandemic, both politically and by mobilizing continued financial support to the global response. In fighting the pandemic, both countries have strongly advocated international cooperation and solidarity.



Co-chairing the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council

In recognition of their engagement in strengthening multilateral global health efforts, Norway and South Africa have been chosen to co-chair the Facilitation Council of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.

The Facilitation Council provides high-level advice and guidance to ACT-Accelerator pillars, principals and partners, as well as global leadership and advocacy for the initiative.

As the Council's co-chairs, Norway and South Africa have contributed to providing advice and support for the work being done under the four ACT-Accelerator pillars and to defining the agenda for further efforts. They have focused their work on increasing production capacity, facilitating technological transfers and pricing strategies that ensure affordable products in lower income countries. Both countries have strongly promoted effective coordination and transparency between the various actors involved.

“Humanity requires that a vaccine should be regarded as a public good to benefit all. We cannot achieve universal health coverage when a COVID-19 vaccine is available only to countries that are well-resourced.”

H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa,
President of South Africa

Global Fund Response

Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and Malaria

IN FOCUS HOW NORWAY AND SOUTH AFRICA SUPPORT THE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 THROUGH THE ACT-ACCELERATOR

Mobilizing financial support for the global pandemic response

Under the leadership of Norway and South Africa, over **US\$6 billion** has been committed to the ACT-Accelerator to date, through the Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics pillars and the Health Systems Connector.

These financial commitments are accelerating the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines in low- and middle-income countries.

“If we fail to allocate enough funding to stop the pandemic, we will pay a much higher price than if we contribute what is needed to combat the pandemic now. The case for global cooperation cannot be stronger.”

Dag Inge Ulstein,
Minister of International Development of Norway

To date, Norway's total contribution to the ACT-Accelerator tops **NOK 4.5 billion**. In addition, Norway contributed almost **NOK 1.3 billion** to COVAX to support procurement of vaccines for lower income countries.

At the [‘Global Goal: Unite for our Future’ Summit](#) on 27 June 2020, South Africa committed to support global diagnostic and therapeutic supply chains, access to global care and therapeutics, and to ensure no country is left behind.

Supporting the Global Fund to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on HIV, tuberculosis and malaria

Norway contributed **NOK 285.2 million** to the Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism in December 2020. This additional funding will help procure and deploy millions of COVID-19 diagnostic tests, protect front-line health workers with personal protective equipment and strengthen formal and community health systems, in the countries where the Global Fund invests.

The contribution was part of a broader commitment of Norway to mitigate the consequences of COVID-19 and safeguard progress against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria in low- and middle-income countries.

Norway is the 11th largest public donor to the Global Fund and the most generous on a per capita basis. The country pledged **NOK 2.33 billion** for the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment three-year funding cycle, which runs from 2020-2022. South Africa has contributed **US\$21.3 million** to the Global Fund to date. The country pledged **US\$10 million** for the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment, doubling its commitment for the Fifth Replenishment.

Global Fund Response

Communications, Media and Events

Communication Products

▶ News Releases:

- ▶ Global Fund Engages Partners to Develop New Strategy [ENG](#) | [FRA](#)
- ▶ Mozambique and Global Fund Launch New Grants to Fight HIV, TB and Malaria and Strengthen Systems for Health [ENG](#) | [FRA](#)

▶ Stories and videos:

- ▶ Support the Global Fund and Unite to Fight COVID-19 [Video](#)
- ▶ Loud and Clear: Community and Civil Society Voices in the 6th Global Fund Partnership Forum [Video](#)
- ▶ Protecting the most vulnerable in Latin America and the Caribbean during times of COVID-19 [Photo Essay](#)

▶ Op-eds:

- ▶ Safely Reopening Requires Testing, Tracing and Isolation, Not Just Vaccines - By Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund, and Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator [ENG](#) | [FRA](#)

In the News

- ▶ Scientific American - 9 February 2021 - [Safely Reopening Requires Testing, Tracing and Isolation, Not Just Vaccines](#)
- ▶ World Economic Forum - 9 February 2021 - [4 principles for urgent pharma action to combat COVID-19](#)
- ▶ The Guardian - 5 February 2021 - [How Covid could be the 'long overdue' shake-up needed by the aid sector](#)
- ▶ Think Global Health - 5 February 2021 - [The United States Needs a New Approach to Fight Pandemics in a New Era](#)
- ▶ Brookings - 2 February 2021 - [How health aid can reach the world's poorest people](#)
- ▶ Financial Times - 1 February 2021 - [Oxygen shortages bite in poorer countries battling Covid](#)
- ▶ Devex - 29 January 2021 - [Global Fund's \\$5B ask for COVID-19 response still lacking funds](#)
- ▶ The BMJ - 29 January 2021 - [International collaboration and covid-19: what are we doing and where are we going?](#)

On Social Media

- ▶ @GlobalFund - [Knock-on effects of #COVID19](#)
- ▶ @GlobalFund - [Testing, Tracing and Isolation, Not Just Vaccines](#)
- ▶ @GlobalFund RT @theglobalfight - [Investing in RSSH for global health security](#)
- ▶ @GlobalFund - [Guatemala](#)
- ▶ @RED - [15th anniversary](#)

Global Fund Response

Communications, Media and Events

Partners' Publications

- ▶ 10 February: WHO - [Interim recommendations for use of the AZD1222 \(ChAdOx1-S \(recombinant\)\) vaccine against COVID-19 developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca](#)
- ▶ 8 February: WHO, UNICEF, IFRC, GOARN - [10 steps to community readiness: What countries should do to prepare communities for a COVID-19 vaccine, treatment or new test](#)
- ▶ 8 February: WHO - [Definition and categorization of the timing of mother-to-child transmission of SARS-CoV-2](#)
- ▶ 3 February: Gavi - [COVAX's first interim distribution forecast](#)
- ▶ 30 January: WHO - [Global report on health data systems and capacity, 2020](#)

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **17-19 February** Global Fund Partnership Forum 2 (virtual) - Regional Forum for West and Central Africa; East Africa and Southern Africa
- ▶ **19 February (tbc)** Virtual High-Level Segment of the Munich Security Conference – Participants: U.S. President Joe Biden; President of France Emmanuel Macron; Chancellor Angela Merkel; WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- ▶ **26 February** 1st Finance Ministers and Central Banks Governors Meeting: “The G20 and the Global Governance for Recovery and Transformation”
- ▶ **27 February** 1st Finance Ministers and Central Banks Governors Meeting
- ▶ **3-5 March** Global Fund Partnership Forum 3 (virtual) - Regional Forum for South West Asia; East Asia and the Pacific
- ▶ **15 March** Global Fund Joint Global Closing of the Sixth Partnership Forums (virtual)
- ▶ **24 March** World Tuberculosis Day
- ▶ **25-26 March** 2nd G20 Health Working Group meeting
- ▶ **April (tbc)** Munich Security Conference
- ▶ **7-8 April (tbc)** 2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting
- ▶ **25 April** World Malaria Day