9 The Global Fund

UNITE To FIGHT

COVID-19 Situation Report #40

Reporting period 26 February 2021 - 12 March 2021

Global Overview

TOTAL DEATHS:

2,621,046

TOTAL CASES:

118,058,503

as of 12 March - Source: WHO

The U.S. government approved US\$3.5 billion in emergency funding for the Global Fund's effort to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in low- and middle-income countries. This unprecedented support, which is part of a nearly US\$11 billion global COVID-19 response package included in the American Rescue Plan Act of a US\$1.9 trillion relief package, will rapidly accelerate the Global Fund's response to the pandemic, which is critical to save lives and protect the gains our partnership has made against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria over the last two decades. As the world marked one year into the COVID-19 pandemic on 11 March, the global rollout of COVAX vaccines was accelerating in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. As of 5 March, COVAX had delivered more than 20 million doses of vaccine to 20 countries, CEPI. the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, launched a US\$3.5 billion five-year plan to dramatically reduce or even eliminate the future risk of pandemics and epidemics. On COVID-19 treatments, WHO strongly recommended against the use of hydroxychloroguine prophylaxis for individuals who do not have COVID-19, while two separate sets of clinical trial results (1, 2) found monoclonal antibody treatments sharply cut hospitalizations and deaths among high-risk COVID-19 patients. Researchers said global health security requires endemic disease eradication, including HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

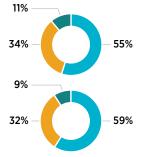
On International Women's Day, the WHO Regional Director for Africa <u>warned</u> that COVID-19 will have long-term impacts on progress towards gender equality, adding that UN Women projects that eight million more women than men will be pushed into extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa in 2021. UNICEF <u>reported</u> that up to 10 million more girls will be at risk of becoming child brides over the next decade, as a result of the pandemic. A <u>World Bank report</u> argued that reforming laws toward gender equality must be a priority as governments look to recover from COVID-19.

Global Fund Response: At a Glance

- Total funds approved to date: US\$988 million
- Countries receiving Global Fund support for COVID-19: 106 countries and 15 multicountry programs
- ► Total funds raised to date: US\$3.76 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 ResponseIn Depth



The Global Fund responded immediately to the pandemic by awarding US\$988 million to 106 countries and 15 multicountry programs to support their responses to COVID-19.

Total funding approved



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.

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, oxygen 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.

In addition to redeployed internal funds, the Global Fund's COVID-19 response received **US\$3.76 billion** from donors including Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, the United States and the FIFA Foundation.

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.

Global Fund ResponseIn Depth

The Global Fund helps countries fight COVID-19 with critical tests, treatments and medical supplies, protect front-line health workers, adapt lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs, and reinforce fragile systems for health. We are leveraging the Global Fund's extensive health and community networks and our well-established health procurement and distribution system to distribute new COVID-19 tools, medical supplies and training at scale in more than 100 countries.

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.
- ▶ 53 countries have purchased PPEs on <u>wambo.org</u>

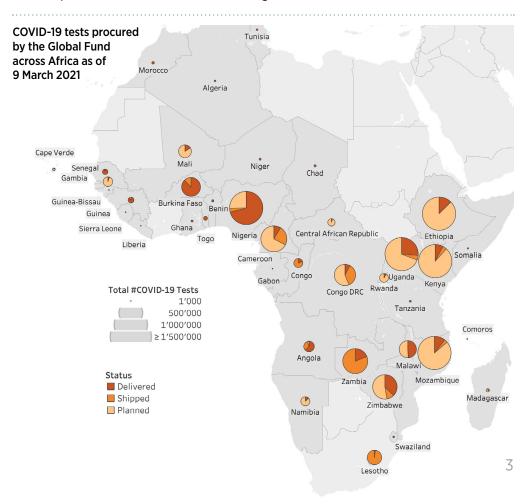
Additional Resources:

- ► COVID-19 Impact on Health Product Supply: Assessment and Recommendations
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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, **20.1 million** requisitions for diagnostics tests (PCR and Ag RDT) have been placed across a total of **86 countries**, including:
 - ▶ Requisitions for **3.7 million** automated PCR diagnostic tests across **83** countries
 - ▶ Requisitions for **14.8 million** Ag RDT tests across **31** countries
 - ▶ Requisitions for **1.6 million** manual PCR diagnostic tests



Global Fund Response In Depth



- ► 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
- ► FIND SARS-COV-2 Test Tracker



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. The Global Fund has currently funded up to **US\$11 million** for oxygen products.

Additional Resources:

- ► A living WHO guideline on drugs to prevent COVID-19
- ▶ Treatment and Oxygen Equipment
- List of Oxygen Products via Wambo.org
- ► PATH COVID-19 Oxygen Needs Tracker

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-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. 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.

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.

The ACT-Accelerator Prioritized Strategy & Budget for 2021 identifies three major shifts and four strategic priorities:

3 major shifts

- 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.

4 strategic priorities

- Rapidly scale up the delivery of over 2 billion vaccine doses across the world.
- Bolster research and development, evaluation and regulatory pathways to optimize products and address the novel COVID-19 variants that have been identified.
- Prioritize the rapid and effective uptake of tests, treatments and PPE in low- and middleincome countries.
- Ensure a robust supply pipeline of essential tests, treatments and PPE for low- and middle-income countries.

Global Fund Response In Depth

- ▶ Diagnostics Pillar. 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.
 - Over 60.9 million COVID-19 tests (33.1 million PCR tests and 27.8 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.
 - Over 60 RDTs have been independently assessed and benchmarked against quality criteria to inform government procurement of quality COVID-19 tests.
 - Fast-tracked <u>access to 120 million</u> affordable, high quality Ag-RDTs for low- and middle-income <u>countries</u> has been secured.
 - Regionalized manufacturing and technology transfers have been improved to increase global manufacturing capacity of quality and affordable RDTs.
- Therapeutics Pillar. 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. As more than half a million COVID-19 patients in low- and middle-income countries are estimated to need oxygen treatment every day, the COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce brings together key organizations working on oxygen access under the ACT-Accelerator Therapeutics pillar to measure oxygen demand, work with financing partners, and secure oxygen supplies and technical support for worst-affected countries.

Note: the costing of medical oxygen equipment is integrated into the Therapeutics Pillar of the ACT-Accelerator, but 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.

- 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. 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). As country readiness is an absolute prerequisite to the equitable scale-up of other COVID-19 tools, 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.
 - 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 ResponseIn Depth

Additional Resources:

- ► 5th ACT-A Facilitation Council agenda
- 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
- ► Livestreamed 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
- Letter to the G20

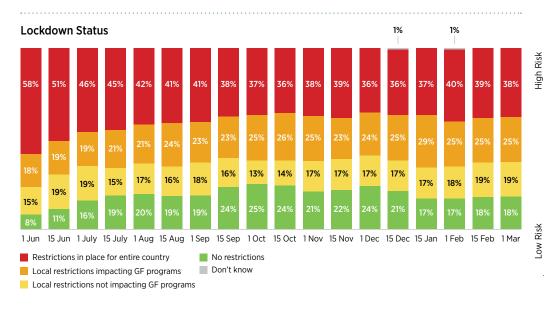
- ► ACT-Accelerator Commitment Tracker
- ► Interactive ACT Accelerator's Funding Commitment Tracker
- ► ACT-A Status Report & Plan
- ACT-A Diagnostics Partnership Investment Case
- ► ACT-A Therapeutics Partnership Investment Case
- ► ACT-A Vaccines Pillar (COVAX)
- ► The ACT-Accelerator frequently asked questions
- ► Accelerating access to vaccines through the ACT-Accelerator & COVAX
- ► ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council Terms of reference

Global Fund ResponseGlobal Fund COVID-19 Country Monitoring

As of **5 March 2021**, the Global Fund's product and delivery outlook shows the overall <u>impact of COVID-19 on health product supply chains</u> for Global Fund grants remains at **moderate**.

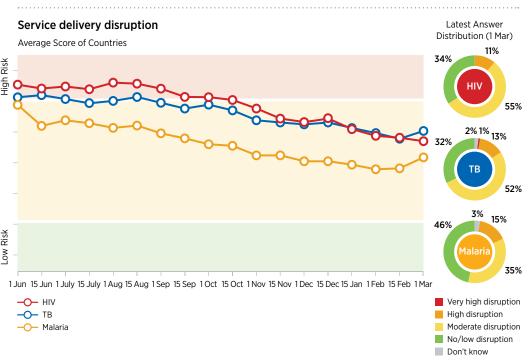
Country-based Local Fund Agents, who monitor grant implementation and progress on behalf of the Global Fund, complete a biweekly survey online to help identify potential risks and disruptions to programs. The tool is not meant to be a rigorous assessment of the country situation. The data is based on in-country stakeholder views but not on verified data. Key insights as of 1 March 2021:

Countries in lockdown: 38% of countries where the Global Fund invests are experiencing nationwide lockdowns as of 1 March, slightly down from 39% on 15 February. 25% of countries are still experiencing local restrictions that impact the programs run by the Global Fund.



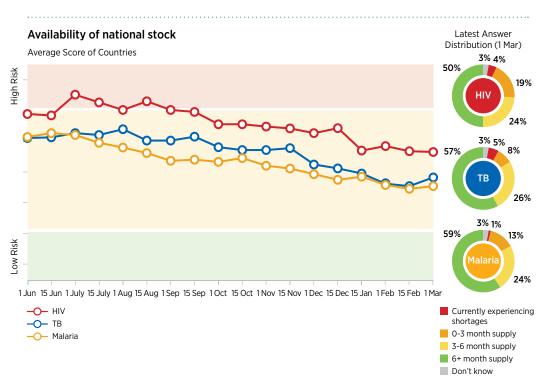
Costed national plans: The percentage of countries that have costed response plans in place for their COVID-19 response remains stable. On 1 March 2021, 81% of countries had a costed response plan in place, compared to 75% on 15 June 2020, and 83% on 15 November 2020.

Disruption to health service delivery: Disruption to TB and malaria services have slightly increased since 15 February. Disruption to TB services could be due to transportation issues and lower demand for services. Disruption to malaria services may be explained by long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLIN), indoor residual spraying (IRS) and seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) campaigns being delayed in some countries. 46% of countries are reporting no or low disruption to health service delivery for malaria (compared to 33% of countries for HIV and 34% for TB).

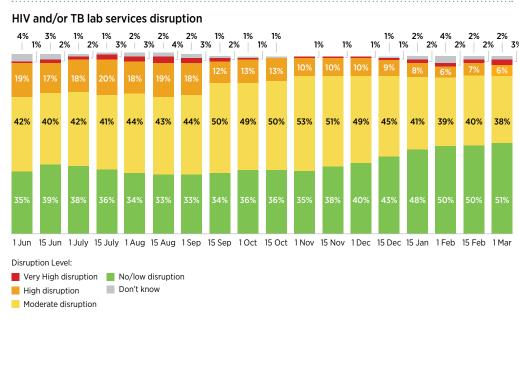


Global Fund ResponseGlobal Fund COVID-19 Country Monitoring

Disruption to supply of key medicines: The risk trend in supply of key HIV, TB and malaria medicines has slightly increased between 15 February and 1 March. 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 situation has not improved since 1 March: 4% of countries are still experiencing shortages of key HIV medicines, and 5% of countries are still experiencing shortages of key TB medicines.



Lab services: The improving trend observed since 1 November 2020 has stabilized, with 51% of countries reporting no or low HIV and/or TB lab services disruption as of 1 March 2021. The percentage of countries experiencing high HIV and/or TB lab services disruption has slightly decreased from 7% on 15 February to 6% on 1 March.



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



COUNTRY CASE

IN COLOMBIA, AN HIV APP BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS IN TIMES OF COVID

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Colombia, people living with HIV struggled to access lifesaving programs. Many health centers were repurposed to fight COVID-19 and helplines collapsed. Lockdowns and other restrictions made the trip to procure HIV drugs harder. With the support of the Global Fund, an app called TeCuidamos.com is offering quick and easy access to HIV diagnosis and prevention services for men who have sex with men, transgender people and other vulnerable populations.



With just the click of a finger, users can schedule an appointment to take an HIV test or order the delivery of condoms and other prevention material to their homes. The application also provides information and health tips on COVID-19 and hepatitis, and on availability of health centers. Launched in August 2020 by la Empresa Nacional Promotora del Desarrollo Territorial (ENTerritorio), more than 2,200 appointments have been booked for HIV tests as of December, and more than 1,400 people have ordered the prevention material. The project is being implemented in Bogotá, Medellín and five other Colombian cities.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenny Espinosa, an HIV activist and health community worker in Colombia's capital Bogotá, has been busy making sure the most vulnerable are not left behind.

Kenny, who works for the Colombian Network for Diversity Support, organizes counseling sessions and workshops on health and HIV to key populations such as men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and migrants from neighboring Venezuela.

Colombia has been one of the countries worst hit by COVID-19 in Latin America. Quarantine restrictions have exposed already marginalized communities to even more stigma and discrimination.

"Most members of the LGBT community are on social media, so the TeCuidamos.com app has really helped us to break down barriers," said Kenny.

"We can't sit idle. There are solutions to fight against discrimination and to help the most vulnerable populations."

Global Fund Response Communications, Media and Events



Communication Products

- News Releases:
 - ▶ Global Fund thanks the United States for US\$3.5 billion emergency investment to fight COVID-19 ENG | FRA
 - ▷ Global Fund Gets Top Marks in New Report on Gender Equality in Global Health ENG | FRA
 - ▶ Global Fund and Fondation CHANEL form new partnership to advance women's health in Western and Central Africa ENG | FRA
- Stories and videos:
 - ▶ Women leading the charge to end diseases ENG | FRA

In the News

- Devex 11 March 2021 In Brief: A breakdown of global funding in the US COVID-19 bill
- ▶ Voice of America 10 March 2021 WHO chief stresses global coordination to end pandemic
- ▶ Voice of America 10 March 2021 US set to send \$11b in international aid in latest COVID bill
- ▶ Health Affairs 10 March 2021 Global Health transitions and COVID-19: seven critical priorities
- ▶ The Economic Times 8 March 2021 Covid-19 pandemic leaves an already strained medical oxygen supply gasping for breath
- ► The Hill 4 March 2021 America's new multilateralism
- ▶ El País 4 March 2021 El pequeño país que da un gran ejemplo al eliminar la malaria
- La Croix 2 March 2021 Aide au développement : la France s'engage à donner plus aux pays pauvres

On Social Media



- @GlobalFund U.S. pledges \$3.5 BILLION to @GlobalFund to fight #COVID19 and protect progress against HIV, TB and malaria
- ▶ @Global Fund Thank you U.S. Congress and @SenSchumer @SpeakerPelosi for leadership and partnership to #EndEpidemics and #SaveLives
- @GlobalFund In 2020, across 24 African countries, fewer than 20% of health facilities had access to testing
- ▶ @WHO One year ago today, #COVID19 was characterized as a pandemic by @DrTedros
- @GlobalFund International Women's Day
- @GlobalFund Diseases like #HIV & #COVID19 expose the inequities that marginalized communities face accessing health care



■ @GlobalFund - The Global Health 50/50 Initiative has given the Global Fund a top rating of "very high scorer" in gender equality in their latest report



- @GlobalFund <u>International Women's Day</u>
- @GlobalFund <u>Today is #ZeroDiscrimination Day</u>

Global Fund ResponseCommunications, Media and Events



Partners' Publications

▶ 11 March	IASC - COVID-19 Data Explorer - Tracking COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out in Countries with Humanitarian Crises
▶ 8 March	UNICEF - COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage
▶ 5 March	WHO - Background document on the AZD1222 vaccine against COVID-19 developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca
3 March	UNICEF - COVID-19 and school closures: one year of education disruption
2 March	WHO - A living WHO guideline on drugs to prevent COVID-19
▶ 1 March	World Bank - Women, Business and the Law 2021

Upcoming Events

▶ 15 March	Global Fund Joint Global Closing of the Sixth Partnership Forums (virtual)
▶ 15-26 March	65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
▶ 19 March	Comic Relief UK Red Nose Day
22-24 March	Women in Malaria conference
23 March	Fifth ACT-A Facilitation Council Meeting
▶ 24 March	World Tuberculosis Day
▶ 25-26 March	Second G20 Health Working Group meeting
April (tbc)	Munich Security Conference
► 1-7 April	World Health Worker Week
7 April	World Health Day
▶ 7-8 April (<i>tbc</i>)	Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting
▶ 13-15 April	19th meeting of the Malaria Policy Advisory Group (MPAG)
▶ 23-26 April	One Young World Summit
24 April	One-year anniversary of the ACT-Accelerator
▶ 25 April	World Malaria Day