

# COVID-19 Situation Report #41

Reporting period 13 March 2021 – 16 April 2021

## Global Overview

<b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b> <b>2,974,642</b>	<b>TOTAL CASES:</b> <b>138,411,980</b>
<i>as of 16 April – Source: <a href="#">WHO</a></i>	

Germany [provided](#) an additional contribution of €140 million to support Global Fund’s efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in low- and middle-income countries and mitigate the impact on HIV, tuberculosis and malaria programs. This allocation is part of the €1.5 billion commitment announced by Germany at the G7 leaders virtual meeting in February to support the work of the ACT-Accelerator. Wellcome [pledged](#) up to US\$100 million to accelerate COVID-19 research and development. Global leaders [called](#) for a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response to build a more robust global health architecture that will protect future generations. FIND and partners [called](#) to promote diagnostics as a global good, as significant inequities are hampering widespread access to these critical tools. The COVAX Facility has now delivered lifesaving vaccines to over 100 countries, [said](#) Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and ACT-A partners. On 15 April, world leaders, the private sector, civil society, and key technical partners [gathered online](#) to galvanize resources and commitment to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC). The China part of the WHO-convened global study of origins of SARS-CoV-2 was released in a [report](#). Carl Bildt, former Prime Minister of Sweden, was [appointed](#) WHO Special Envoy for the ACT-Accelerator.

A new [Global Fund report](#) showed massive disruption to health care caused by COVID-19 in Africa and Asia. Stop TB Partnership released [new data](#) detailing how 12 months of COVID-19 has eliminated 12 years of progress in the global fight against TB. The World Bank together with governments, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Fund, UNICEF and the WHO [reported](#) gaps in low- and middle-income countries’ readiness to deploy COVID-19 vaccines, highlighting the importance of strengthening health systems. Africa CDC published a [study](#) of COVID-19 vaccine perceptions in 15 African countries. In the [April 2021 World Economic Outlook](#), the International Monetary Fund examined the possible persistent damage that may occur from the COVID-19 recession.

## Global Fund Response: At a Glance

The Global Fund has deployed nearly **US\$1 billion** to fight COVID-19 and mitigate the impact on HIV, TB and malaria in more than **100** countries\*, using redeployed internal funds and contributions from donors including Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway and the FIFA Foundation. The COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) is the mechanism through which the Global Fund supports low- and middle-income countries to respond to the pandemic, as well as the mechanism through which we contribute to the targets of the ACT-Accelerator – the global collaboration to ensure the accelerated development and equitable deployment of tools to fight COVID-19. Through the ACT-Accelerator and with the extension of our COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM), the Global Fund is now the primary channel for providing grant support to low- and middle-income countries on tests, treatments (including medical oxygen), personal protective equipment (PPE) and health systems strengthening. For the Global Fund to fulfil its responsibility to the ACT-Accelerator goals and regain lost progress against HIV, TB and malaria, an additional **US\$10 billion** is needed. To date in 2021, the Global Fund has raised **US\$3.7 billion** from donors including Germany and the United States.

- ▶ **Total funds approved to support Global Fund’s COVID-19 response: US\$990 million**
- ▶ **Countries receiving Global Fund support for COVID-19: 106 countries and 14 multicountry programs**
- ▶ **2021 funds raised to date: US\$3.7 billion**
- ▶ **2021 fundraising target: US\$10 billion**



*\* 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

## Defeating COVID-19: The Global Fund's Vision

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 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.

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.

## The Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism

The Global Fund developed the [COVID-19 Response Mechanism](#) to fight COVID-19, support countries in protecting their HIV, TB and malaria programs, and reinforce health systems.

### ► How countries have been using COVID-19 Response Mechanism support:

- **55%: Reinforcing national COVID-19 response**, 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.
- **34%: Mitigating COVID-19 impact on 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.
- **11%: Making 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.

Recognizing the integrated and cross-cutting nature of the fight against COVID-19 and the fight against HIV, TB and malaria, which rest on the same systems for health, the Global Fund is working to ensure that systems for health have the capacity and readiness to receive and deliver health tools such as tests, treatments, and vaccines, as well as mitigate the knock-on impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB, and malaria. *“Combatting COVID-19 and defeating HIV, TB and malaria are inextricably interconnected,”* says Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund. *“We won’t get back on track on the three epidemics while countries are still reeling from COVID-19.”*

# Global Fund Response In Depth

## C19RM 2021

The Global Fund Board approved the extension of the COVID-19 Response Mechanism. With this decision and the contributions from our donors, the Global Fund will continue to provide swift additional support to partner countries. The C19RM has been refined to reinforce technical guidance as well as transparency and accountability, while sustaining the speed and flexibility of the mechanism to deliver funding as quickly as possible to countries most in need.

### Supporting Fast-Track Funding Requests

Applicants are encouraged to submit an ambitious Fast-Track Funding Request. How much of each country's C19RM Base Allocation should be devoted to securing urgent COVID-19 health products through the Fast-track process will depend on individual country circumstances. Countries are strongly encouraged to consider individual country contexts and reflect programmatic **needs to submit considerably more than the anticipated half of base C19RM Base Allocation** at portfolio level to ensure available funding of US\$900 million is maximized and fully deployed in an efficient manner.

To allow eligible countries submit their urgent demand for health products, it is important to flag that the requirements for funding request documentation are considerably less than for the full funding request as described below.

- ▶ The applicant only needs to complete the summary page and Section 1 of the C19RM Funding Request form for the Fast-track Funding Request (pages 1 and 2 of the form), as indicated on page 5 of the instructions.
- ▶ On **funding priorities** applicants will confirm that their investments are consistent with Global Fund and WHO guidelines and align the interventions with their COVID-19 national response plans (NSPRP). On this section, applicants will also indicate the extent to which national COVID-19 response coordinating bodies, HIV, TB and malaria programs and other relevant ones were consulted.
- ▶ Under **Implementation Arrangements** applicants will describe the entities (Principal Recipients, sub-recipients) responsible for managing the Fast-Track Funding Request, and the measures put in place to ensure efficient program delivery. Applicants will also describe the planned mechanism for the procurement of COVID-19 health products.
- ▶ Applicants will also be required to submit **a set of documents** including the form, the budget, a quantification of COVID-19 health products, the COVID-19 National Testing Strategy, health product management template, Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) endorsement, COVID-19 national response body endorsement and national COVID-19 plan (NSPRP).

## Commodities

- ▶ **Funded under C19RM and current grants: personal protective equipment (PPE).** Given the importance of PPE both as a fundamental COVID-19 intervention and key component of mitigation activities, PPE can be flexibly funded under either C19RM or existing grants.
- ▶ **Not Funded under C19RM: HIV, TB and malaria commodities.** HIV, TB and malaria commodities are not expected to be included in C19RM Funding Requests and CCMs are requested to avoid using C19RM funding to compensate for shortfalls in domestic procurement.
- ▶ **Savings and reprogramming can be used for HIV, TB and malaria commodities (and mitigation and catch up plans).**
  - ▶ When mitigation activities require additional HIV, TB and malaria commodities the Global Fund will work with CCMs and Principal Recipients to source those items through existing grants.
  - ▶ Reprogramming flexibilities and grant savings through portfolio optimization can be used for HIV, TB and malaria mitigation and catch-up plans, but not available for direct COVID-19 needs such as diagnostics and therapeutics.

## Systems Support Contributing to Vaccine Delivery Services: What does C19RM Cover? And what does it not?

Within the **ACT-Accelerator**, Gavi is playing the lead role on vaccine procurement for low- and middle-income countries through COVAX. Gavi has attracted a considerable amount of funding to support both vaccine procurement and deployment within National Vaccine Deployment Plans and the World Bank is taking the lead on supporting vaccine deployment through the US\$12 billion Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) facility.

With UNICEF and WHO's Emergencies Programme playing key technical implementation support roles, this leaves the Global Fund as the major multilateral financing agency supporting the other aspects of countries' COVID-19 responses, including **diagnostics, treatments, and health systems reinforcements.**

# Global Fund Response In Depth

Considering that the above-mentioned resources are intended for vaccine procurement and deployment, the Global Fund does not intend to use C19RM to fund these areas. However, the C19RM Technical Information note describes **six targeted system strengthening activities to contribute to vaccine delivery services**, and that are considered “in scope” within C19RM where these are not being fully supported by other partners and where they support both COVID-19 and HIV, TB, and malaria responses:

- ▶ Design social mobilization and engagement strategy/demand plan and information awareness programs **to address COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccine hesitancy in communities.**
- ▶ Apply Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures and provide COVID-19 response-related training of **community health care workers (HCWs)** that also support vaccine delivery.
- ▶ Planning activities for how **to identify and reach those excluded or not covered by the public health system**, e.g. detainees, migrants and refugees, and stigmatized populations, with COVID-19-related testing, treatment, and prevention services, that may support vaccination services, as appropriate.
- ▶ As part of national COVID-19 response activities under Pillar 1, **conduct COVID-19 vaccine table-top (simulation) exercises** to test on-going country readiness.
- ▶ Adapt and apply **existing surveillance and monitoring frameworks to address vaccination coverage, acceptability and adverse events reporting**, including information from facilities and contractors participating in vaccine delivery.
- ▶ **Adapt and apply existing Health Management Information Systems** (e.g. DHIS2) electronic and/or paper-based monitoring tools and appropriate institutional arrangements (e.g. vaccination cards/certificates, facility-based nominal registers, etc.) to monitor progress and coverage among different at-risk and marginalized groups in order to facilitate vaccine delivery and timely reporting.
- ▶ **Interventions not mentioned above are not covered by C19RM.** Applicants are requested to look at domestic financing, GAVI and WB funding, where possible, before applying for C19RM funding for this purpose.

## Resources for countries:

- ▶ [C19RM: Guidelines](#)
- ▶ [C19RM: Update for countries](#)
- ▶ [C19RM: How to apply](#)
- ▶ [C19RM: Funding Request Instructions](#)
- ▶ [C19RM: Country Coordinating Mechanism \(CCM\) support and engagement](#)
- ▶ [C19RM: HIV, TB and Malaria Mitigation Note](#)
- ▶ [C19RM: Health Product Management Template User Guidelines](#)
- ▶ [Office of the Inspector General's Audit of COVID-19 Response Mechanism \(C19RM\)](#)

# Global Fund Response In Depth

## The Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator)

As part of our efforts to mitigate the pandemic's impact on HIV, TB and malaria, the Global Fund is playing a leading role in the global response to fight COVID-19. The Global Fund is a founding partner of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (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 and strengthen health systems. Through the ACT-Accelerator and with the extension of our COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM), the Global Fund is now the primary channel for providing grant support to low- and middle-income countries on tests, treatments (including medical oxygen), PPE and health system strengthening. As part of the ACT-Accelerator, the Global Fund is a co-convenor of both the Diagnostics Pillar (with FIND) and the Health Systems Connector (with the World Bank), and we are a procurement and deployment partner in the Therapeutics Pillar. 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 quality-assured health products.

Alongside our work addressing the priorities of the ACT-Accelerator pillars, the Global Fund is continuing to mitigate the knock-on impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB, and malaria, and investing in additional interventions to support resilient and sustainable systems for health that are not currently covered in the ACT-Accelerator framework. These investments are necessary to ensure that other needs that cannot be accommodated within the scope of the ACT-Accelerator are met. In this way, the Global Fund is ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable are being addressed and that additional resources are making their way to communities.

### 4 strategic priorities of the ACT-Accelerator in 2021:

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

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.

# 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 is needed to drive the development and at-scale availability of affordable, digitally-integrated tests; 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; and stimulate rapid and effective country uptake of tests, including capacity building in countries to roll-out testing at scale. The Global Fund is supporting countries and partners to develop and implement national testing strategies using a combination of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and antigen rapid diagnostic tests (Ag RDTs). 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 existing base of over 10,000 of 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.

Progress so far	
<b>ACT-Accelerator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Over <b>63.2 million</b> COVID-19 tests (<b>34.6 million</b> PCR tests and <b>28.6 million</b> Ag RDTs tests) have been procured for low- and middle-income countries.</li> <li>▶ Over <b>23,000</b> health care workers are being trained in almost <b>200</b> countries to effectively implement the tests.</li> <li>▶ Over <b>60</b> RDTs have been independently assessed and benchmarked against quality criteria to inform government procurement of quality COVID-19 tests.</li> <li>▶ Fast-tracked <a href="#">access to 120 million affordable, high quality Ag-RDTs for low- and middle-income countries</a> has been secured.</li> <li>▶ Regionalized manufacturing and technology transfers have been improved to increase global manufacturing capacity of quality and affordable RDTs.</li> </ul>
<b>The Global Fund, as part of ACT-Accelerator:</b>	<p>To date, <b>USD \$184M</b> placed as requisitions for <b>20.2 million diagnostic tests</b> (and associated costs for their effective deployment) across <b>87</b> countries through the Global Fund's Pooled Procurement Mechanism and/or on wambo.org.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Requisitions for <b>3.8 million</b> automated PCR diagnostic tests across <b>83</b> countries</li> <li>▶ Requisitions for <b>14.6 million</b> Ag RDT tests across <b>34</b> countries</li> <li>▶ Requisitions for <b>1.7 million</b> manual PCR diagnostic tests</li> </ul>

**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. The Global Fund leads the workstream on procurement and delivery of therapeutic treatments like corticosteroids and medical oxygen for LMICs.

*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.*

Progress so far	
<b>ACT-Accelerator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>3.2 million</b> lifesaving dexamethasone treatments have been supplied (<a href="#">including 2.9 million by UNICEF</a>)</li> <li>▶ Over <b>300</b> actionable trials across product categories have been tracked and two large randomized controlled platform trials have been supported, which led to the identification of the first life-saving therapy, dexamethasone.</li> <li>▶ The research agenda continues to advance for monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) adapted for LMICs, small molecule novel antivirals (SM NAV) and repurposed therapeutics.</li> <li>▶ Global guidance has been provided on the clinical use of corticosteroids (including dexamethasone) and its use integrated with medical oxygen into good clinical care to treat those severely affected.</li> </ul>
<b>The Global Fund, as part of ACT-Accelerator:</b>	<p>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 <b>US\$11 million</b> for oxygen products.</p>

# Global Fund Response In Depth

**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. The Global Fund is engaged in all workstreams, and focuses particularly on the strengthening of supply chains, supporting community-led responses, and the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) 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.

## Progress so far

### ACT-Accelerator

- ▶ ACT-Accelerator partners have procured more than **US\$500 million** in PPE for LMICs.
- ▶ System requirements for the delivery of COVID-19 tools have been mapped in four out of six world regions.
- ▶ Global and regional guidance and training materials have been developed to support health financing and COVID-19 costing, strengthen community engagement in the COVID-19 response, bolster critical supply chain capabilities, and enhance engagement with the private sector and several other critical areas.

### The Global Fund, as part of ACT-Accelerator:

- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **50** countries have purchased PPEs on wambo.org

## ACT-Accelerator Funding Update as of 16 April 2021 (according to the [Funding Tracker](#))

▶ Total funds committed:  
Over **US\$11 billion**

- ▶ Vaccines: **US\$8.5 billion**
- ▶ Therapeutics: **US\$0.8 billion**
- ▶ Diagnostics: **US\$1 billion**
- ▶ Health Systems: **US\$0.6 billion**
- ▶ Pending allocation to/by pillars: **US\$0.2 billion**

# Global Fund Response In Depth

## Additional Resources:

### ACT-Accelerator

- ▶ [What is the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, how is it structured and how does it work?](#)
- ▶ [5th ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council](#)
- ▶ [ACT-Accelerator prioritized strategy and budget for 2021](#)
- ▶ [ACT-Accelerator Commitment Tracker](#)
- ▶ [Interactive ACT-Accelerator's Funding Commitment Tracker](#)
- ▶ [ACT-Accelerator Status Report & Plan](#)
- ▶ [ACT-Accelerator Diagnostics Partnership Investment Case](#)
- ▶ [ACT-Accelerator Therapeutics Partnership Investment Case](#)
- ▶ [ACT-Accelerator 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](#)

### Diagnostics

- ▶ [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](#)

### Therapeutics

- ▶ [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](#)

### Health System Connector

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

# Global Fund Response

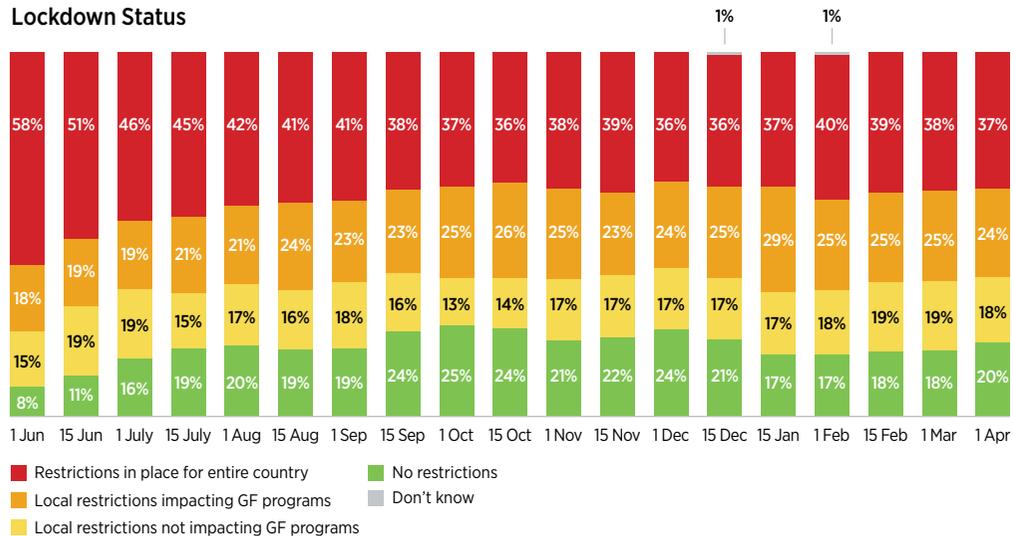
## Global Fund COVID-19 Country Monitoring

As of **12 April 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 April 2021**:

**Countries in lockdown:** 37% of countries where the Global Fund invests are experiencing nationwide lockdowns as of 1 April, slightly down from 38% on 1 March. 24% of countries are still experiencing local restrictions that impact the programs run by the Global Fund.

### Lockdown Status

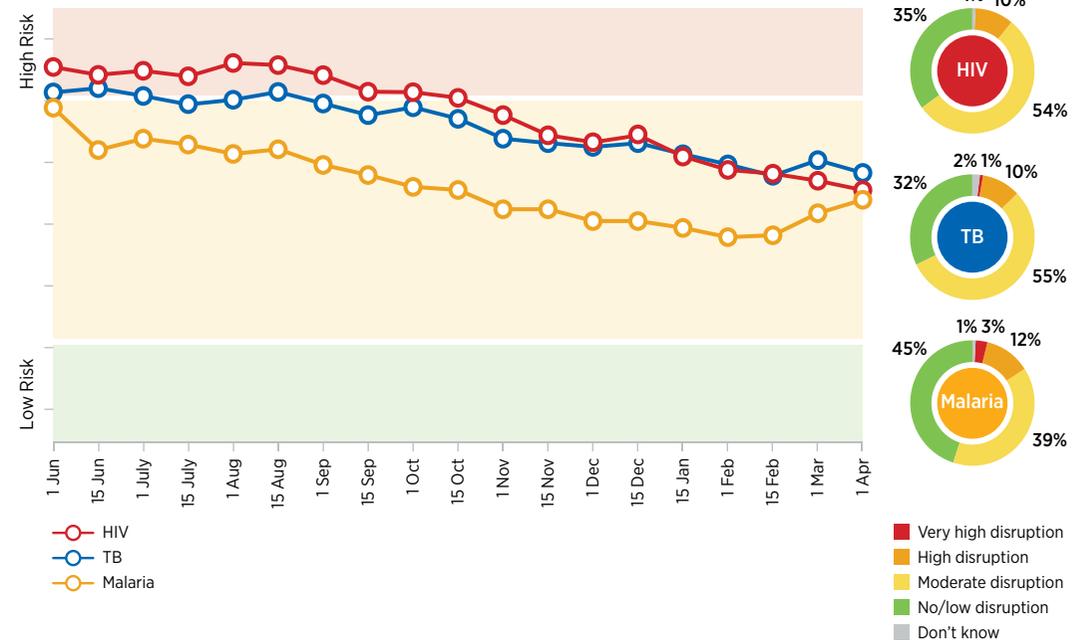


**Costed national plans:** The percentage of countries that have costed response plans in place for their COVID-19 response remains stable. On 1 April 2021, 82% of countries had a costed response plan in place, compared to 75% on 15 June 2020, and 83% on 15 November 2020.

**Disruption to health service delivery:** Disruption to TB and HIV services have slightly decreased since 1 March, while disruption to malaria services has slightly increased. Disruption to malaria services may be explained by transportation issues which impact countries' abilities to deliver malaria commodities, and which delay malaria health campaigns. However, overall disruption to malaria services remains lower than disruption to HIV and TB services. 45% of countries are reporting no or low disruption to health service delivery for malaria (compared to 35% of countries for HIV and 32% for TB).

### Service delivery disruption

Average Score of Countries



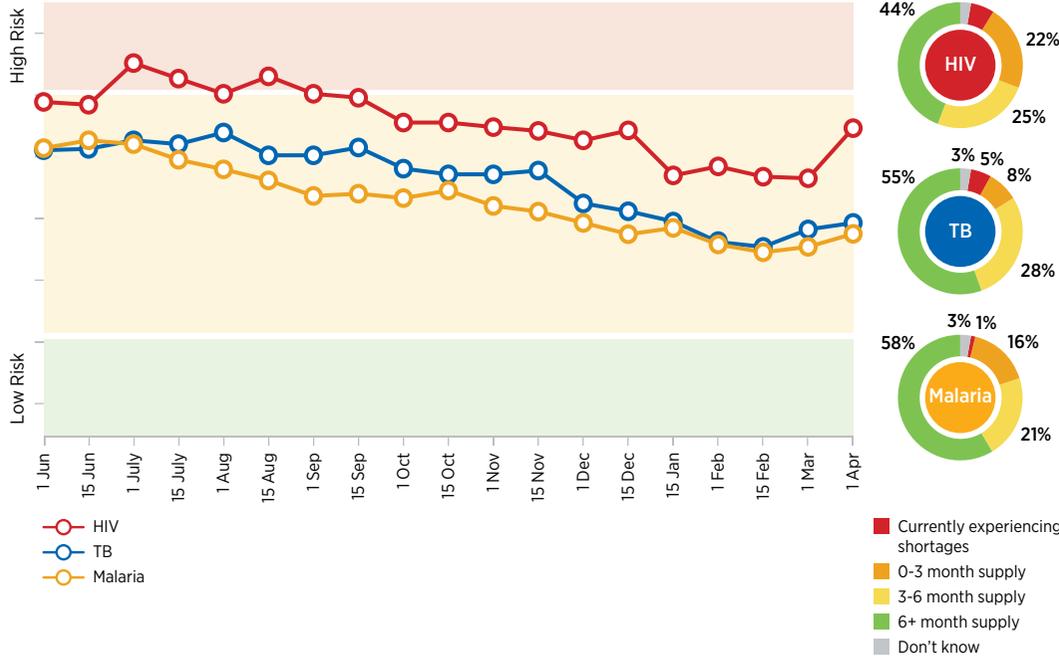
# Global Fund Response

## Global 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 1 March and 1 April. For the TB and malaria 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 particularly deteriorated regarding HIV commodities: 6% of countries are still experiencing shortages of key HIV medicines, and only 44% of countries have a minimum 6 months' supply capacity of key medicines.

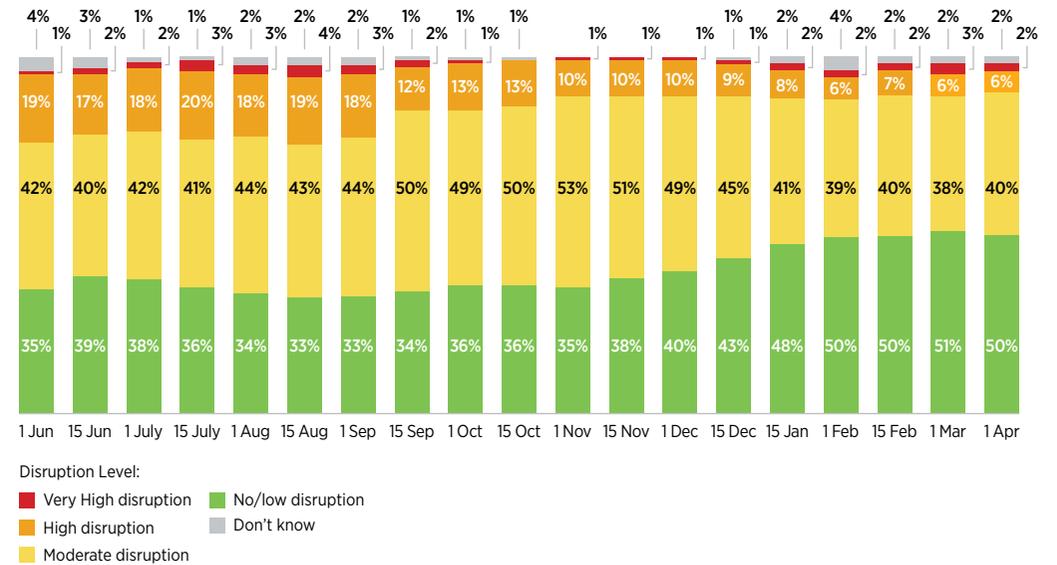
### Availability of national stock

Average Score of Countries



**Lab services:** The improving trend observed since 1 November 2020 has stabilized, with 50% of countries reporting no or low HIV and/or TB lab services disruption as of 1 April 2021. The percentage of countries experiencing high HIV and/or TB lab services disruption has remained stable at 6% from 1 March to 1 April.

### HIV and/or TB lab services disruption



# Global Fund Response

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

### IN FOCUS A SNAPSHOT OF COVID-19 DISRUPTION IN 502 HEALTH FACILITIES IN 32 COUNTRIES ACROSS AFRICA AND ASIA

In 2020, COVID-19 significantly impacted health services for HIV, TB, and malaria across low- and middle-income countries. The Global Fund has published a snapshot detailing the extent of this disruption in 502 health facilities in 32 countries across Africa and Asia.



Using various safety precautions, a seasonal malaria chemoprevention program continues to be rolled out in Burkina Faso during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to protect gains made in the fight against malaria. Health workers like Ariel and Élise walk door to door to distribute mosquito nets, seasonal malaria chemoprevention, and other health services to communities.

The Global Fund / Olympia de Maismont

Disruption to health services means that people are not being as widely tested, diagnosed, or treated for HIV, TB and malaria, threatening the gains that the Global Fund has made so far in the fight against these three diseases. Moreover, the availability of COVID-19 commodities is critically low, hampering the global response to the pandemic.

In the facilities in this snapshot, between April and September 2020, compared to the same time period in 2019:

- ▶ HIV testing fell 41%.
- ▶ TB referrals – where patients suspected of having TB are referred to the next step of diagnosis and treatment – have fallen 59%.
- ▶ Malaria diagnoses fell 31%.
- ▶ Antenatal care first visits fell by 43%.

Moreover, spot-checks revealed critically low availability of COVID-19 commodities:

- ▶ Only 45% of facilities surveyed had at least the four most essential items of PPE available to all staff, including masks, disinfectant, gloves and hand sanitizer.
- ▶ Across 24 countries in Africa, only 11% of health facilities could conduct COVID-19 antigen rapid diagnostic tests, and only 8% could conduct polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests.

Yet there is hope. Adaptive measures adopted to counter the impact of COVID-19 on health service continuity are working. Faced with the disruption caused by COVID-19, health facilities came up with innovative and adaptive solutions to health service delivery:

- ▶ More than two-thirds (68%) of facilities surveyed in this snapshot adopted at least one adaptive measure to adapt to the challenge of COVID-19.

The Global Fund needs more funding to scale up these innovative measures, ramp up delivery of critical supplies for the COVID-19 response, protect health workers on the frontline and prevent health care systems and community responses from collapse.

Read the full COVID-19 Disruption Snapshot to find out more: [ENG](#) | [FRA](#)

# Global Fund Response

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

### COUNTRY CASE FIGHTING TWO AIRBORNE PANDEMICS IN INDIA: TB AND COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating impact on the fight against tuberculosis worldwide, as many of the resources required to fight TB – labs, testing machines, health workers – have been diverted to fight COVID-19.

But India's experience shows the COVID-19 pandemic also provides an opportunity to fight both diseases at the same time by increasing investments in the common tools, health workers and systems for health needed to fight TB and COVID-19.

Because of lockdowns and other restrictions in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, diagnosis and enrollment for TB treatment fell dramatically in India, which has the highest TB burden in the world.

Determined to protect its gains, India responded with a plan to integrate TB and COVID-19, including screening programs and laboratory services. Efforts to find TB and COVID-19 cases intensified across the country. Screening of TB patients for COVID-19 and COVID-19 patients for TB (known as bi-directional screening) was implemented to increase surveillance.

By December 2020, India had almost closed the gap on TB treatment enrollment, reaching the same levels of TB testing and notification the country had achieved before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Over the last few years, India has scaled up TB investments with the goal of eliminating TB by 2025. India has been using lessons learned from the fight against TB to fight COVID-19, including infection control measures such as tracing, testing, isolating and treating, but also drawing from the experience of communities.

Officials and health community workers say the fight against COVID-19 is now providing an opportunity to better fight TB with the expansion of molecular testing and changes in social norms.

In Mumbai, a diagnostic tool devised and manufactured in India called Truenat is allowing hospitals to do co-testing for both COVID-19 and TB. The technology allows for rapid, onsite COVID-19 testing for symptomatic

people and also facilitates tuberculosis screening of people with COVID-19 symptoms. It has the potential to be used around the world.

“The capability of doing co-testing for both COVID-19 and TB is a real boon for both patients and physicians,” said Dr. Jayanthi Shastri, Head of the Microbiology Department at Nair Hospital. “It allows us to better understand the two diseases and their complications.”

Dr. Shastri said the new technology could potentially be a game changer. Truenat, which delivers test results in under 60 minutes, allows clinicians to tackle both diseases with the same approach. The testing facility in her Mumbai hospital reduces waiting times for patients and limits the chances of spreading COVID-19.

While the COVID-19 pandemic at first paused the fight against TB, health officials and community activists say TB programs must now adapt to a post-COVID-19 future to rebound stronger, including better implementation and digital technology.

“The good practices of COVID-19 need to be translated to TB,” said Blessina Kumar, a health activist from India. “We have the resources and the skills to end TB, but TB is the known devil.”



Health workers from Mumbai Municipal Corporation do contact tracing of COVID-19 patients in the slums of Mumbai.

The Global Fund / Atul Loke

# Global Fund Response

## Communications, Media and Events

### Communication Products

#### ► News Releases:

- ▷ Indonesia, Germany and Global Fund Sign New Debt Swap Agreement to fight TB ([ENG](#))
- ▷ New Global Fund Report Shows Massive Disruption to Health Care Caused by COVID-19 in Africa and Asia ([ENG](#) | [FRA](#))
- ▷ Global Fund Thanks Germany for EUR 140 million Contribution ([ENG](#) | [GER](#))
- ▷ The Global Fund's Sixth Partnership Forums Generate Recommendations for the Next Global Fund Strategy ([ENG](#) | [FRA](#))
- ▷ TB Testing in 2020 Dropped Drastically Due to COVID-19 ([ENG](#) | [FRA](#))
- ▷ Gavi, the Global Fund and USAID Announce Innovative Collaboration to Support Supply Chain Leaders ([ENG](#) | [FRA](#))
- ▷ Nigeria and Global Fund Launch New Grants to Fight HIV, TB and Malaria ([ENG](#) | [FRA](#))

#### ► Stories and videos:

- ▷ Fighting two airborne pandemics in India: TB and COVID-19 ([ENG](#) | [FRA](#))
- ▷ Uganda's remarkable response to COVID-19 ([ENG](#) | [FRA](#))
- ▷ Testing for COVID-19 using antigen rapid diagnostic tests (Ag RDTs) in Ethiopia (with FIND and WHO) [ENG](#)

#### ► Blogs and op-eds:

- ▷ On World TB Day, Crisis and Hope ([ENG](#) | [FRA](#))

#### ► Reports:

- ▷ The impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and malaria services and systems for health: a snapshot from 502 health facilities across Africa and Asia ([ENG](#) | [FRA](#))
- ▷ Office of the Inspector General's Audit of COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) ([ENG](#))

# Global Fund Response

## Communications, Media and Events

### In the News

- ▶ Health Policy Watch – 8 April 2021 - [HIV and TB Patients Face New Barriers To Accessing Services In COVID-19 Era](#)
- ▶ The New England Journal of Medicine – 3 April 2021 - [From Vaccine Nationalism to Vaccine Equity – Finding a Path Forward](#)
- ▶ Le Point – 2 April 2021 - [Tuberculose, cet autre fléau que l'Afrique n'a pas encore éradiqué](#)
- ▶ The New England Journal of Medicine – 31 March 2021 - [Scaling Up Covid-19 Vaccination in Africa – Lessons from the HIV Pandemic](#)
- ▶ Reuters – 29 March 2021 - [Opinion: I'm A Millionaire Who Wants To Be Taxed To Pay For COVID-19](#)
- ▶ Le Figaro – 27 March 2021 - [Sidaction : Emmanuel Macron appelle ne pas laisser le Sida «reprendre du terrain»](#)
- ▶ Mail & Guardian – 26 March 2021 - [World TB Day 2021 – lessons from our Covid-19 response to reach the END TB Targets](#)
- ▶ Devex – 25 March 2021 - [Can global health recover from COVID-19 disruptions?](#)
- ▶ The Lancet – 24 March 2021 - [The Human rights and fair access to COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- ▶ Devex – 24 March 2021 - [What's holding up simultaneous testing of tuberculosis and COVID-19?](#)
- ▶ Devex – 24 March 2021 - [To recover from COVID-19, donor support for tuberculosis must increase](#)
- ▶ Bistandsaktuelt – 24 March 2021 - [The world is battling two deadly airborne diseases](#)
- ▶ The Asahi Shimbun – 24 March 2021 - [The coronavirus pandemic also impacts the fight against tuberculosis](#)
- ▶ Devex – 24 March 2021 - [COVID-19 diverted lifesaving tuberculosis work. But there is still hope](#)
- ▶ Health Policy Watch – 22 March 2021 - [Data From 80 Countries Shows COVID-19 Reduced TB Treatment By 21%](#)
- ▶ The Guardian – 19 March 2021 - [The Fight against tuberculosis set back 12 years by Covid pandemic, report finds](#)
- ▶ Health Policy Watch – 18 March 2021 - [COVID-19 Eliminates Twelve Years Of Progress Against Tuberculosis, Global Investment Needed](#)
- ▶ The Economist – 17 March 2021 - [New funding for the Global Fund supports equitable access to COVID-19 tools](#)
- ▶ Nature – 15 March 2021 - [Promoting diagnostics as a global good](#)

### On Social Media



- ▶ Disruption Report ([post](#))
- ▶ Disruption Report TB ([post](#))
- ▶ Disruption Report Malaria ([post](#))
- ▶ Disruption Report HIV ([post](#))
- ▶ UNDP in Djibouti ([post](#))
- ▶ WHO/ UNICEF/ Global Fund ([post](#))
- ▶ WHO – World Health Day ([post](#))
- ▶ Korea High Level Symposium ([post](#))



- ▶ World Health Day ([post](#))
- ▶ World TB Day ([post](#))
- ▶ Peter Sands - Op-Ed – World TB Day ([post](#))



- ▶ Uganda Story ([post](#))
- ▶ India Story ([post](#))
- ▶ RED ([post](#))



- ▶ Health Workers ([post](#))
- ▶ International Transgender Day of Visibility ([post](#))

# Global Fund Response

## Communications, Media and Events

### Partners' Publications

- ▶ **13 April** WHO - [Draft landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines](#)
- ▶ **1 April** UNICEF - [Sub-Saharan Africa: Growing up in crisis in a world of opportunities - The lasting impact of Covid-19 on children](#)
- ▶ **31 March** WHO - [What is the Access to COVID-19 Tools \(ACT\) Accelerator, how is it structured and how does it work?](#)
- ▶ **30 March** WHO - [WHO-convened global study of origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part](#)
- ▶ **25 March** UNAIDS - [Global AIDS strategy 2021-2026](#)
- ▶ **11 March** World Bank (with partners) - [Assessing Country Readiness for COVID-19 Vaccines - First Insights from the Assessment Rollout](#)

### Upcoming Events

- ▶ **19-20 April** G7 Civil Society 7 Summit
- ▶ **20-22 April** WHO 2021 Fair Pricing Forum
- ▶ **21 April** GBC Health: Combat malaria in Africa: lessons and opportunities
- ▶ **23 April** One-year Anniversary of the ACT-Accelerator
- ▶ **23-26 April** One Young World Summit
- ▶ **24-30 April** World Immunization Week 2021
- ▶ **25 April** World Malaria Day
- ▶ **6-7 May** G20 Sherpas' Meeting
- ▶ **8 May** Global Citizen "VAX LIVE: A Concert to Reunite the World"
- ▶ **10-12 May** 45th Global Fund Board Meeting
- ▶ **12 May** ACT-Accelerator 6th Facilitation Council
- ▶ **18 May** Summit on Financing African Economies
- ▶ **21 May** G20 and European Commission Global Health Summit
- ▶ **24 May - 1 June** 74th World Health Assembly
- ▶ **25-26 May** The Sixth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 6)
- ▶ **3-4 June** 3rd G20 Health Working Group
- ▶ **8-10 June** UN high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS