
COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity

45th Board Meeting

Pre-Board Session, 5 May 2021: COVID-19 Secretariat Update

GF/B45/04

11-12 May 2021, *Virtual*

Board Information

Purpose of the paper: This paper provides the Board with an informal update, as of 28 April 2021, on the Global Fund response to COVID-19 and ensuring business continuity and delivery of the Global Fund's core mission.

Executive Summary

Input sought

This paper provides the Secretariat's regular update to the Board on the Global Fund response to COVID-19. Board members will have an opportunity to discuss the Global Fund response to COVID-19 at the 5 May 2021 pre-Board session with the Executive Director.

Questions this paper addresses

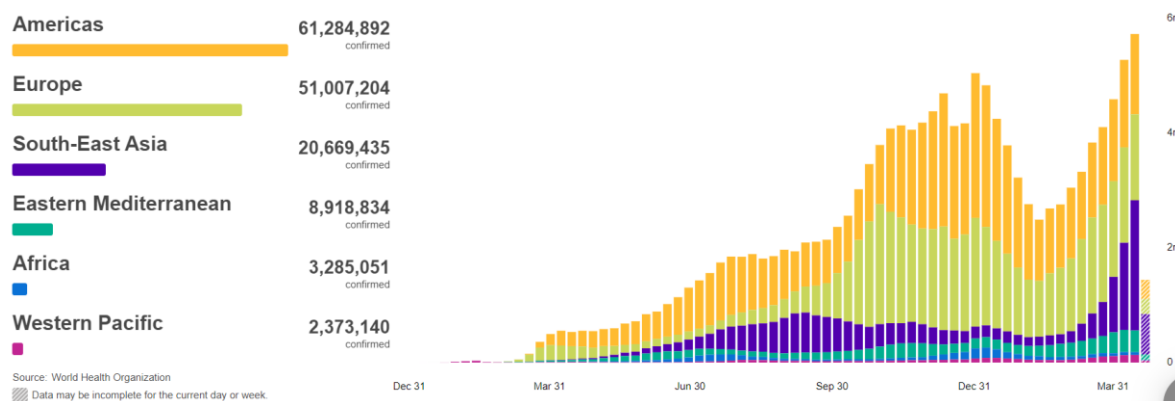
The paper covers the latest update on the Global Fund's response to COVID-19. It provides the initial context around the global COVID-19 situation, including the continued rapid growth of COVID-19 cases around the world, and the resulting effect on program disruptions in Global Fund-supported countries as well as within Switzerland on Global Fund staff. The Secretariat's four-pronged response includes measures to support staff with virtual work as well as the planned return to the Global Health Campus (at an appropriate time); protecting the progress on the Global Fund's core mission in the current environment through a focus on core operations, robust Business Contingency Planning and extensive risk monitoring; actions taken to mitigate the effects of the pandemic through providing Global Fund-supported countries with emergency resources (including a longer section focused on changes for the next wave of the COVID-19 Response Mechanism); and the areas in which the Secretariat is playing a role as part of the global community of international organizations fighting against COVID-19 (such as through the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator).

Sections of the paper include:

1. Recap of the COVID-19 context (page 3)
2. The Global Fund's response
 - Keeping our people safe (page 4)
 - Protecting our core mission (page 5)
 - Helping countries we invest in respond to COVID-19 (page 6)
 - Our role in the global COVID-19 response and looking ahead (page 8)

Context

1. Over a year since COVID-19 was first declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, it is continuing to spread with great rapidity around the world. As of 28 April 2021, over 148 million confirmed cases and over 3.1 million confirmed deaths have been recorded globally. More than half of global confirmed cases have been recorded since mid-December 2020. The week from 12-19 April 2021 saw more confirmed cases – over 5.6 million – than any prior week in the pandemic.¹



2. After some stabilization during the January-February 2021 period, many regions experienced a sharp uptake in cases during March and April, including the Americas, Europe, Southeast Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western Pacific regions. While some of this could be due to movement patterns and gradual easing of restrictions by governments, much of this increase came as a result of the emergence of new variants.
3. The ten implementing countries in the 2020-2022 allocation period with the most cumulative cases are India, Russia, Colombia, Iran, Ukraine, Peru, Indonesia, South Africa, Iraq and the Philippines.
4. The latest available results of the Global Fund COVID-19 Country Monitoring Survey (from 1 April 2021) suggest a slight reduction in restrictions compared to the previous report to the Committees² (using data from the 15 February iteration of the survey). Countries with country-wide restrictions are down from 39% to 37%, and countries with no restrictions are up from 18% to 20%.
5. Levels of disruption in service delivery, national stocks and supply chains remain variable between disease components. While service delivery risks are generally decreasing, malaria has seen an uptick in risk level since February 2021 – with 3 countries now showing “very high” levels of risk. On national stocks, risk levels have plateaued for TB and malaria, and have shown a sharp rise for HIV. As of 1 April 2021, 6%, 5% and 1% of countries were experiencing shortages of HIV, TB and malaria supplies respectively. Supply chain disruption levels remain fairly constant compared to Q4 2020.
6. Switzerland recently emerged from a period of lockdown (initiated in January). As of 1 March 2021, shops have re-opened as well as limited outdoor facilities, and effective 19 April 2021 restaurants can open outside seating areas. Working from home remains mandatory. Further measures may be relaxed towards the end of May with the next set of announcements expected to be effective as of 26 May 2021.

¹ <https://covid19.who.int/>

² GF/SC15/25: Link [here](#)

7. Vaccinations are underway in Switzerland as well. As of 28 April 2021, 2,443,166 vaccine doses have been administered³ with 9.5% of the population fully vaccinated (compared to 2.5% on 1 March).
8. The Secretariat maintains its adoption of a four-pronged response to the crisis: (a) keeping our people safe, (b) protecting our core mission, (c) helping Global Fund supported countries respond to the pandemic and (d) playing our role in the global COVID-19 response.

Where are we now? Progress to date

Keeping our people safe

9. The Secretariat has been consistently complying with all Swiss government and Geneva cantonal guidance, including the current mandatory working from home provisions which have been in place since 3 November 2020. During this time, the Secretariat has continued with virtual working, including holding virtual meetings with our Board and Committees, and support mechanisms in place for staff and managers.
10. Efforts to keep our people safe have been decided and implemented in alignment with the Global Health Campus (GHC) partners (Gavi, StopTB, RBM and Unitaid), and are overseen by the Management Executive Committee (MEC) on a weekly basis.⁴
11. At the time of writing, 22 members of staff have contracted COVID-19 since the turn of the year, bringing the total to 79 since the phased reopening of the GHC first began in June 2020 (before further lockdowns). The pandemic has also continued to cause an increase in workload demands and overall fatigue for staff members. The well-being score (47%) in the Q1 2021 pulse survey was a low improvement compared to the previous one (45% in September 2021), due to excessive workloads and the ensuing stress, reduced capacity and other COVID-19 constraints relating to health and family. Family and health constraints regularly reduce Secretariat capacity. Some staff required individual support response mechanisms by Human Resources (HR) if their family members or friends were being impacted negatively by COVID-19.
12. Overall, HR remains focused on supporting staff by rebalancing workload requirements where possible with the objective of ensuring business continuity at this important time in the grant lifecycles. Despite the challenging situation, high engagement (95% - an all-time high) has been reported in response to the September 2020 staff survey and the ten virtual Townhall meetings since the start of the pandemic have seen very high attendance. A new pulse survey went out at the end of February 2021, focused on support, communications and preferred circumstances for colleagues around the return to work.
13. There has been a greater emphasis on mental health and resources for emotional support, through HR and the Staff Counsellor. HR has also received trainings in supporting victims of domestic violence and building resilience. HR processes continue to adapt given the pandemic circumstances, and the Situation Response Team continues to share timely responses to staff questions as well as biweekly communications on updates related to staff flexibilities and the local situation. The organization has also shared relevant communications regarding the Swiss vaccination campaign, which has led to many colleagues announcing that they have received vaccination appointments. An increasing number of Global Fund staff are getting vaccinated, expected to be around 85-90% as per the latest pulse survey.
14. HR is intensively planning the reopening of the GHC in a phased approach, while facilitating the work on the “Future of Work” to ensure a seamless transition.

³ <https://www.covid19.admin.ch/en/epidemiologic/vacc-doses>

⁴ For more details, see GF/AFC15/11 HR Update

Protecting our core mission

15. Despite the hurdles, the Global Fund's core business is moving ahead as planned. 157 grants were signed by end-2020; this compares to 138 signed in 2017 (a significant achievement given the disruptions in 2020 due to the pandemic). Including Window 4 (February 2021), 157 funding requests worth USD 11.6 billion have now been recommended for grant-making by the Technical Review Panel (TRP). USD 1 billion worth of funding requests remain to be reviewed in 2021 or early 2022.
16. At the time of writing, USD 10.9 billion or 86% of the total 2020-2022 allocation has been reviewed and recommended by the Grant Approvals Committee (GAC). This includes USD 10.1 billion in grants already Board-approved. 78% of catalytic matching funds (USD 267 million) and 54% of catalytic multi-country funds (USD 124 million) have also been integrated into Board-approved grants as of April 2021.
17. The Global Fund's Strategy development process continues to progress in full swing as well. The process has been adapted to the new constraints and has moved forward with more than 5,000 individuals having contributed their input into the 2020 partnership-wide Open Consultation on Strategy development – with responses in six languages spanning all Global Fund regions. Nine Strategy Committee / Board consultations took place over Q4 2020, and a series of inclusive and engaging Partnership Forums were convened over Q1 2021, with approximately 350 participants representing the Global Fund's rich partnership. Extensive background documents were prepared, and a series of pre-meetings supported ahead of these consultations to facilitate fruitful discussion. The discussions now continue to take forward and evolve the draft Strategy Framework, with monthly meetings of the Strategy Committee and Board through to July 2020 when the Strategy Framework will be proposed for approval, and work will commence on the Strategy Narrative.
18. Business Contingency Plans (BCPs) first established last spring remain in place, allowing flexibilities for countries, Principal Recipients (PRs), health product processes and Information Technology (IT) systems, while mitigating risks faced by our core programs due to in-country disruptions. Following an internal review process, BCPs by department and process were amended or integrated into core policy. Those plans still in place will provisionally remain so until 30 September 2021, following the most recent extension memorandum signed by the Executive Director.
19. The IT team continues to ensure critical business asks are met, while enabling high security standards and supporting teleworking needs for the Secretariat and in-country stakeholders, with a particular focus on civil society.⁵ Key challenges IT has worked on include facilitating teleworking capabilities, system (GOS) enhancements to accommodate the distribution of COVID-19 funds and additional information security to protect the Global Fund from emerging cyber security threats. As a result, much of the focus has been on supporting the continued operation of the organization.
20. Tasks identified for IT through the pandemic have now been materially completed. These activities include enhanced IT Security measures, enabling virtual working, enhanced training, GHC improvements, business contingency and continuity planning as well as activities designed to ensure the continued delivery of impact from grants. The key deliverable relating to our migration to Microsoft's Azure cloud was completed at the end of Q1 2021. The remaining IT and business activities have been transitioned to business-as-usual and are tracked through ongoing projects, reported through monthly IT Operations meetings. As a result, IT has closed the COVID-19 reporting.
21. The Performance and Accountability tracking process has been updated to monitor the impact of COVID-19, providing visibility into processes that face the greatest disruption. Comparing Q2 2020 with Q1 2021 results, the number of processes with high or very high disruption has reduced from five to three. However, challenges still remain due to increased resource focus on the continuation of C19RM and increasing complexity of international recruitment (due to

⁵ For more details: see [GF/AFC15/13 IT Strategy 2020-2022 - End of year review of strategic objectives 2020](#)

travel restrictions) to meet organization capacity needs. 22 of 50 processes are still reporting a moderate level of disruption, indicating that the disruptions from the pandemic are not yet over.

22. Overarching business risks, including monitoring country disruptions, ensuring high-quality funding requests and grants, securing IT and communication, and delivering sufficient health product supplies, remain on the Secretariat's radar. Potential revisions to BCPs will be considered in commensurate proportion to the disruptions faced by individual processes.
23. The Global Fund continues to make significant progress in pledge conversion. As of end 2020, over USD 7.8 billion (57% of total adjusted pledges) have been signed into contribution agreements for the Sixth Replenishment with 39 (of 58) public donors. Contribution agreement negotiations are advancing with the 19 remaining public donors. Contribution agreement negotiation timelines have been slightly longer for new and returning donors (21 of 58) as they are becoming familiar with the process. In terms of payment, 34 public donors have paid their 2020 contributions in full. For private sector donors, signed contribution agreements were in place for 85% of pledges as of end 2020. In terms of private sector contributions, cash conversion at the end of 2020 amounted to USD 366 million. Full conversion of adjusted pledges is on track. The Secretariat continues to monitor and actively mitigate risks related to pledge conversion.⁶

Helping countries we invest in respond to COVID-19

24. In early March 2020, the Secretariat resolved rapidly to make funding available to support three objectives: mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on HIV, TB and malaria programs, reinforce country responses to COVID-19 and make urgent improvements in health and community systems. As a result, the Secretariat dedicated USD 990 million to fighting the pandemic. This was made available through two funding channels:
 - Grant flexibilities: The Secretariat has deployed USD 231 million for in-country use, covering all Global Fund regions, funded primarily by savings. This was available to countries at the very start of the pandemic and allowed for the use of grant savings and/or reprogramming of grant funds towards the COVID-19 response at a time when very few resources were globally available to support the effort.
 - COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM): Following rapid Board approval, the Secretariat also set up C19RM to mobilize resources, deploy funds and support countries to fight the pandemic and reduce the knock-on effects on the three diseases and vulnerable health systems. Initially set up with USD 500 million, by the end of 2020 the Secretariat had deployed Board- and AFC-approved funds of USD 759 million, thanks to additional funding in 2020 from donors including Germany, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Sweden, Norway, and FIFA, and the quick mobilization of funds. All awards were consistent with WHO technical guidance and were made based on Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)-endorsed requests. The USD 759 million included:
 - USD 243 million (32%) for mitigating COVID-19's impact on HIV, TB and malaria programs;
 - USD 442 million (58%) for reinforcing national COVID-19 responses; and
 - USD 74 million (10%) for urgent improvements in health and community systems.
25. Following extraordinary support from donors (contributions detailed in the section "Playing our role in the global COVID-19 response") and the approval by the Board of the Second Extension of C19RM and Operational Flexibilities,⁷ C19RM has officially been relaunched. In addition to making greater financial resources available to countries, C19RM will incorporate a number of changes compared to 2020, following extensive consultations with the Board, Committees and

⁶ For more details, see GF/B45/19 [Update on Resource Mobilization Matters](#)

⁷ [GF/B44/ER12 Second Extension of C19RM and Operational Flexibilities](#)

partners, a thorough review by the OIG, as well as a Secretariat-led exercise on lessons learned. Some of the revised features are detailed below.

- To ensure alignment with national plans and the latest technical guidance, and for effective partner coordination, we have adapted existing mechanisms (CCMs, HIV & TB Situation Rooms, Malaria CRSPC, GAC and TRP) for the HIV, TB and malaria aspects of funding requests. We have also created a new COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (CTAG) for COVID-19 components. CTAG membership is drawn from the relevant ACT-Accelerator pillars (including organizations such as WHO, World Bank, Find, GAVI, Unitaid, Wellcome, CHAI, BMGF, Africa CDC and USAID, CDC, DOS/OGAC). Its functions include in-country support for CCMs to develop quality and prioritized C19RM funding requests, review and input on the C19RM funding requests, supporting CCMs and PRs in programming and C19RM implementation, and strengthening the national monitoring of the COVID-19 response.
- Interactions with GAC Partners and CTAG members are centralized on an extranet platform for partner engagement. Funding requests are sent to internal and external reviewers simultaneously and both internal and external reviews happen at the same time. The C19RM Investment Committee makes informed funding decisions based on both internal and external reviews. Strategic consultations have already begun, with GAC Partners and CTAG members providing feedback on the use of centrally managed investments to strengthen community engagement in C19RM, including in funding request preparation.
- To strengthen community engagement in the funding request process and increase investments in community systems and responses in C19RM, the Secretariat has taken the following actions:
 - The Secretariat added questions in the funding request form on the impact of COVID-19 on disruption of HIV, TB and malaria services for key and vulnerable populations, on the in-country situation of gender-based violence and human rights violations and on the specific role community-based organizations (CBOs) could play in the national response to COVID-19 and implementation of C19RM. There is also a mandatory Annex “List of Civil Society suggestions for inclusion in the C19RM Full Funding Request” to ensure that priorities of civil society and communities have been acknowledged, even if not prioritized in the funding request. This will help reviewers (internal and external) to have a more comprehensive picture of the in-country situation and needs. The Modular Framework and Detailed Budget include 6 “CRG-related” interventions (out of 18 in total), which also helps to increase the visibility and opportunity to scale up these investments.
 - There is a new “Technical Information Note on Community Systems and Responses”,⁸ which has been shared widely with civil society and communities via the Community Rights and Gender (CRG) Strategic Initiative (SI) partners and webinars. This information note provides a non-exhaustive list of eligible “CRG-related” interventions and concrete examples of activities.
 - The existing CRG Strategic Initiative SI has been leveraged to provide technical assistance to civil society and communities (via the CRG SI Regional Platforms and key and vulnerable populations networks). CRG SI partners will (i) conduct situational analysis and (ii) convey in-country prioritization discussions to help inform C19RM funding requests. CRG SI partners will also support communities to report any engagement bottlenecks encountered at country level. Furthermore, the CCM Secretariats in-country can access additional funding (up to 25% of their annual budget) to support community engagement, including communities most severely impacted by COVID-19.

⁸ https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/10816/covid19_crg-investments_guidance_en.pdf

- A C19RM Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework has been developed, including measures covering a range of input (e.g. product volumes, budgets allocated), output (e.g. number of people tested for COVID-19, stock availability of tracer HIV, TB, malaria and COVID-19 commodities) and outcome indicators (e.g. grant performance on HIV, TB and malaria programmatic results, performance on KPIs 1 and 2, COVID-19 cases averted, COVID-19 case fatality rate and COVID-19 deaths averted). Data will be collected from a range of sources, including through existing PR reporting, surveys, spot checks and community-led monitoring as well as data collected by partners. Key controls and assurance related to C19RM are documented in Risk and Controls Matrices (RCMs) for upstream risks, including CTAG/GAC and C19RM Investment Committee review, and in assurance guidelines for internal country teams and second-line functions for downstream risks. Downstream country assurance will be achieved through a combination of portfolio-level reporting, in line with the C19RM M&E Framework, grant-level reporting, and routine grant assurance provided by Local Fund Agents (LFAs) and partners. A routine suite of reports, aligned with the principles outlined in the Board paper on the Second Extension of C19RM and Operational Flexibilities, will be used to report to the C19RM Investment Committee, MEC, and the Board and its Committees.
 - The Secretariat has also taken measures to strengthen internal resourcing, in anticipation of the increased workload due to the C19RM extension. A proposed management and operating budget of USD 92 million for the 2021-2023 period will be shared with the Audit and Finance Committee for input,⁹ reflecting the need for adequate support from the Secretariat, robust in-country dialogue, external assurance, rigorous monitoring and evaluation, and reinforced reporting on C19RM investments.
26. Following the C19RM relaunch, the Secretariat has already been actively engaged with CCMs to provide details on allocation and funding request approval procedures. Already, 106 out of 129 eligible countries or multi-countries have registered to submit a full funding request, with the first full requests expected by 14 May 2021. In addition, 36 countries or multi-countries have registered to submit fast-track funding requests focused on accelerated approvals of COVID-19 commodities (including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), diagnostics, and therapeutics) One has already been received.
27. To facilitate access to COVID-19 commodities at Global Fund-negotiated competitive market terms and prices, over 90 countries used Wambo in 2020. At the time of writing, over 20 million COVID-19 tests had been ordered through the platform (approximately 74% and 26% for antigen tests and PCR tests respectively). Furthermore, USD 134 million worth of PPE has also been sourced through the platform.

Playing our role in the global COVID-19 response

28. The Global Fund has, along with its partners, actively supported countries to procure diagnostics, PPE, therapeutics and oxygen. The Secretariat has, in the course of supporting countries, actively leveraged its partnerships (e.g. Supply Consortium and ACT-Accelerator) across diagnostics, therapeutics and the Health Systems Connector). Examples include collaborating with AU-CDC, WHO AFRO, and African Society for Laboratory Medicine and National Lab Directors to accelerate country adoption and scale-up of antigen RDTs and working with the World Bank and other partners on an initiative, "Rethinking PPE", to strengthen the PPE ecosystem. While these initiatives are taking place with partners, the Global Fund continues to streamline procurement towards a regular business-as-usual approach and is onboarding surge resources within the Supply Operations department to effectively support the COVID-19 response.
29. The Global Fund helped found the ACT-Accelerator partnership and remains actively engaged, as a co-convenor of the Diagnostics and Health Systems Connector pillars. The ACT-Accelerator has been at the forefront of providing countries with equitable access to the necessary tools to fight the pandemic. The Global Fund continues to play a key role in three of the four ACT-Accelerator pillars: including on the diagnostics pillar supply workstream with

⁹ For more details, see GF/AF15/ER03 PART A

WHO; encouraging advocacy and community engagement across all ACT-Accelerator workstreams and through the Global Fund Advocates Network; supporting procurement and deployment with WHO on therapeutics; and in a series of workstreams on the Health Systems Connector.

30. In terms of additional resources for the Global Fund in 2021, Germany pledged an additional EUR 140 million as part of a broader EUR 1.5 billion commitment to support the ACT-Accelerator, and the Netherlands announced a pledge of EUR 12 million, out of a new EUR 52 million ACT-Accelerator commitment. Additionally, with the adoption of the American Rescue Plan Act, the U.S. committed USD 3.5 billion in support of the Global Fund. On the private sector side, as other resource mobilization activities are in progress, (RED) is mobilizing partners to support C19RM, including Apple, Starbucks and Salesforce. Private sector partners have also taken part in key events and calls to action in support of the Global Fund.
31. As of 21 April 2021, an unprecedented mobilization of sovereign funders and private sector, philanthropic and multilateral contributors has galvanized commitments of USD 14.1 billion for the ACT-Accelerator. The ACT-Accelerator funding gap now stands at USD 19 billion.¹⁰

Looking ahead

32. Even though COVID-19 has become a part of our lives over the last year, it remains a major crisis with the magnitudes of recorded cases continuing to break new global records. While the Global Fund is continuing to take all the steps it can to fight the pandemic and simultaneously continue its efforts against the three diseases, many of our efforts across both counts expose the organization to heightened levels of financial and programmatic risk. We will maintain our four-pronged approach to mitigate risks and impact on our core mission and will continue to work alongside our partners to address the crisis. The Executive Director will continue to update the Board on our approach to COVID-19 across the various pillars through regular calls and reports as before. We continue to ask support from Global Fund partners to remain on track to accomplish our mission of ending HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics.

¹⁰ For more details, please see <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/access-to-covid-19-tools-tracker>

Annexes

The following items can be found in Annex:

- Annex 1: Relevant Past Board and Committee Decisions
- Annex 2: Links to Relevant Past Documents & Reference Materials

ANNEX 1 – Relevant Past Board and Committee Decisions

Relevant past Decision Point	Summary and Impact
GF/AFC15/EDP02: Approval of Available Sources of Funds for the C19RM Mechanism (April 2021)	The AFC approved the additional amount of US\$ 3,619 million as available sources of funds; acknowledged that the additional amount of US\$ 3,619 million will be applied to C19RM pursuant to Board decision points GF/B42/EDP11, GF/B43/EDP12 and GF/B44/EDP18; and accepted that the total available sources of funds for C19RM shall accordingly be US\$ 4,378 million.
GF/B44/EDP18: Second Extension of C19RM Timeline and Operational Flexibility for COVID-19 (April 2021)¹¹	The Board approved the extension of the timelines for the receipt, award, and use of funds for the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM), and to extend the duration of the Secretariat's delegated authority to grant limited exceptions to the pre-shipment sampling and testing requirements under the Quality Assurance Policies.
GF/AFC14/EDP04: Approval of Available Sources of Funds for the C19RM Mechanism (December 2020)¹²	The Audit and Finance Committee (i) approved an additional amount of USD 41 million as available sources of funds; (ii) acknowledged that the additional amount of USD 41 million would be applied to C19RM pursuant to Board decision points GF/B42/EDP11 and GF/B43/EDP12; and (ii) accepted that the total available sources of funds for C19RM would accordingly be USD 759 million.
GF/AFC14/EDP02: Approval of Available Sources of Funds for the C19RM Mechanism (November 2020)¹³	The Audit and Finance Committee (i) approved an additional amount of USD 53 million as available sources of funds; (ii) acknowledged that the additional amount of USD 53 million would be applied to C19RM pursuant to Board decision points GF/B42/EDP11 and GF/B43/EDP12; and (iii) accepted that the total available sources of funds for C19RM would accordingly be USD 718 million.
GF/B43/EDP12: Extension of C19RM Timeline and Operational Flexibility for COVID-19 (September 2020)¹⁴	The Board: (i) extended the time for the Secretariat to approve requests for C19RM funds through 15 April 2021; (ii) affirmed application of all other previously approved principles under GF/B42/EDP11; (iii) requested the Secretariat to return to the Board should further extensions of C19RM be required or if total additional funding for C19RM exceeds USD 500 million; and (iv) extended through 15 April 2021 the operational flexibility under paragraph 3 of GF/B42/EDP10.
GF/AFC13/EDP01: Available Sources of Funds for the C19RM Mechanism (August 2020)	The Audit and Finance Committee approved USD 165 as available sources of funds and acknowledged that the amount would be applied to C19RM in accordance with GF/B43/EDP11.
GF/B43/EDP07: Extending the wambo.org pilot to include COVID-19 products (July 2020)¹⁵	The Board extended the scope of the pilot approved by GF/B42/EDP05 to include COVID-19 products available in wambo.org for procurement by Global Fund Principal Recipients, subject to certain conditions and reporting.
GF/B42/EDP11: Additional Support for Country Responses to COVID-19 (April 2020)¹⁶	The Board approved the creation and initial funding up to USD 500 million of a COVID-19 response mechanism to finance interventions consistent with WHO guidance on COVID-19 in

¹¹ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b44-edp24/>

¹² [GF/AFC14/EDP04](https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b44-edp04/)

¹³ [GF/AFC14/EDP02](https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b44-edp02/)

¹⁴ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b43-edp12/>

¹⁵ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b43-edp07/>

¹⁶ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b42-edp11/>

	the context of national Strategic Preparedness and Response Plans across the 5 th and 6 th replenishment periods.
GF/B42/EDP10: Operational Flexibilities to Ensure Continued Operations during COVID-19 (April 2020) ¹⁷	The Board approved certain operational flexibilities: (i) for delivery of goods and services under Global Fund programs to be funded from the 2017-2019 allocation period, up to 180 days after the implementation period end date; (ii) Secretariat approval of increase of grant amounts to integrate awards of portfolio optimization funds approved by the Secretariat in line with the Strategy Committee-approved prioritization framework, where such funds have been approved as available by the AFC; and (iii) Secretariat grant of limited exceptions to the Quality Assurance Policies, to waive the requirement for pre-shipment sampling and testing for Expert Review Panel-approved products, vector control products, and condoms, where such testing may delay the delivery of products to countries.

Annex 2 – Links to Relevant Past Documents & Reference Materials

- [GF/AFC15/07 Risk Management Report and CRO's Annual Opinion](#)
- [GF/B44/03 Report of the Executive Director](#)
- [GF/B44/16 Risk Management Report](#)
- [Annex to GF/B44/06 COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity](#)
- [GF/B43/Background Document COVID-19 and Business Continuity](#)
- *COVID-19 Situation Reports:* <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/covid-19/>

¹⁷ <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b42-edp10/>