

## Role of Global Fund and GAVI in COVID-19 response

### GAVI

#### Normal response:

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) is a partnership that is committed to ensuring that every child receive recommended preventable vaccines regardless of economic or social status.<sup>1</sup> The partnership is formed by international organizations, private foundations, implementor countries, private organizations, and vaccine manufacturers. The partnership has vaccinated over 760 million children from 2000 to 2018 and now supports the vaccination of nearly half of the world's children.

GAVI was founded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank. The broader alliance includes civil society organizations, developing country governments, industrialized country governments, the global pharmaceutical industry, and research centers.<sup>2</sup>

GAVI's model encourages manufacturers to lower vaccine prices for the poorest countries in return for long-term, high-volume, and predictable vaccine demand from those countries. This model has driven the cost to fully immunize a child down to \$28, compared to \$1,000 in the United States. GAVI also invests in vaccine development and is thus able to reduce costs once the vaccine is approved. GAVI is committed to strengthening health systems to achieve its immunization mission.

#### COVID-19 Response:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, GAVI is allowing countries to request flexibility with grant funds.<sup>3</sup> **Up to 10% of Health Systems Strengthening funds** may be reoriented toward the COVID-19 response. The objective is to mitigate the pandemic's impact on GAVI's core mission of facilitating childhood vaccination.

Thus far, **GAVI has approved \$29 million to support 13 countries** responses to COVID-19.<sup>4</sup> The funds will help these countries protect health care workers with personal protective equipment, perform vital surveillance and training, and fund diagnostic tests. The following countries are receiving these funds: Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Afghanistan, Sudan, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Guinea-Bissau, Tajikistan, Bhutan, and Liberia. In the coming weeks, GAVI is likely to approve an additional **\$200 million in funding requests** from 21 countries.

When a **COVID-19 vaccine** becomes available, GAVI will work to support equitable access.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gavi.org/our-alliance/about>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gavi.org/our-alliance/operating-model/gavis-partnership-model>

<sup>3</sup> "Re: Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance response to COVID-19"

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/covid-19-gavi-steps-response-pandemic>

## The Global Fund

### Normal response:

The Global Fund is a partnership designed to accelerate the end of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.<sup>5</sup> The fund mobilizes more than \$4 billion annually to support programs implemented by local experts in over 100 countries. The Global Fund is a partnership of governments, civil society, technical agencies, and the public sector.

The Fund is structured to allow recipient countries to make investment decisions, with strategic oversight from the fund. When possible, local experts and partners implement projects, strengthening local health system capacity. While focused primarily on the three key diseases, The Global Fund is committed to strengthening health systems to achieve its disease control mission. Since its creation in 2002, The Global Fund has saved 32 million lives and provided critical prevention, treatment, and care services to hundreds of millions of people around the globe.

### COVID-19 Response:

The Global Fund recognizes that COVID-19 poses a serious threat to both its core mission, and to developing countries more broadly.<sup>6</sup> The Global Fund may approve costs related to strengthening health systems to respond to COVID-19. It is also providing increased flexibility to recipient countries to help them reallocated resources to control the pandemic.

The Global Fund will consider the following **grant flexibilities**:

- Timebound reprogramming of savings under existing grants (up to a limit of 5% of total grant value)
- Redeployment of resources procured through existing grants, particularly infrastructure and capacities that become under-utilized because of COVID-19

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Epidemic preparedness and assessment
- Laboratory testing
- Sample transportation
- Use of surveillance infrastructure
- Infection control in health facilities
- Information Campaigns

In cases where there are no savings possible in existing grants or in other exceptional circumstances, an existing grant may be re-programmed up to an additional limit of another 5% of its total value. All activities must follow WHO guidance on COVID-19 preparedness and response.

In addition, Global Fund will authorize an **additional US\$500M**. More details are to be released soon.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/overview/>

<sup>6</sup> Guidance Note on Responding to COVID-19, The Global Fund. 4 March 2020.