

Talking Points

Name of Event	Masoyise Health Programme Seminar
Date	15 th October 2020
Time	11h00 - 13h30 (allotted speaking time- 10 min)
Presented by	Marijke Wijnroks - Chief of Staff
Venue	Virtual Seminar
Topic	Global Fund support to continuation of HIV & TB services and strengthening health systems during COVID-19 pandemic

- One year ago. Replenishment Lyon. 14 billion. Hugely excited for what we could collectively achieve. Building on accelerated progress we had seen in 2018 and 2019.
- So started this year with lots of optimism. Busy year of grant making. 70% of grants ending in 2020. But then Covid-19 hit. And we came to grim conclusion that the knock-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 are threatening to derail the progress in the fight against HIV and TB (and malaria).
- Recent modelling by WHO, UNAIDS and the Stop TB Partnership show deaths from HIV, TB and malaria could as much as double in the coming year as a knock-on effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Not just modeling, also evidence through surveys of health facilities
 - Childhood vaccination was the most disrupted service
 - The number of outpatient consultations fell in all countries where this was monitored. Huge variations between countries. Supply and demand side issues. Lockdown.

- Lack of PPE. HCW at risk. WHO rapid survey infection rates among HCW between 0.4 and close to 50%. Amnesty International report (September) over 7000 HCW died. Strikes, stigma and discrimination of HCW.
 - HIV, TB: services have been significantly affected. Stop TB, UNAIDS presentations.
- Biweekly Global Fund surveys in more than 100 countries to track levels of disruption, helps us to follow trends and be proactive to address emerging risks. Will show some results in a minute. Big variations between countries and regions. Up to 75 percent of HIV, TB and malaria service delivery has been disrupted. Lifesaving treatment for people with HIV and TB have been interrupted, increasing the risk of drug resistance and deaths. In some places new TB case notifications have dropped by up to 75%. HIV prevention badly affected as community outreach became impossible.
 - Some countries have found creative solutions. Moving to multi-month dispensing of drugs for TB and HIV. Phone calls to follow up on adherence. Use of mobile clinics, combining testing for COVID19 and TB. Engaging with communities, stepping up of HIV activist groups. Use of virtual tools and platforms. Great to see that many countries could build COVID19 response on systems that were established for fighting other infectious diseases HIV, TB, malaria. Some LMIC more effective than HIC.
 - Some data from surveys
 - On stocks – different factors. Impact of lockdowns in China and India. Supply chain issues – air freight, in country due to lockdowns. Important as interruptions can lead to increased drug resistance with long term implications for public health.

Slide 6

- To protect the progress achieved in the fight against HIV, TB (and malaria) and save lives, we must see the fights against COVID-19, HIV, TB and malaria as one and the same fight.
- As part of the global response to COVID-19, the Global Fund is working with health leaders, partners and governments to ensure the global response to COVID-19 includes lessons learned from the fight against HIV, TB and malaria: protect human

rights and address stigma and discrimination, particularly among key and vulnerable populations; fight human rights and gender barriers to health; engage communities in the response; and fairly allocate limited COVID-19 resources and new tools so that no one is left behind.

- The Global Fund is leveraging its extensive health and community networks and its well-established health procurement and distribution system to distribute new COVID-19 tools, medical supplies and training at scale.
- In response to the COVID pandemic, the Global Fund responded quickly and provided up to US\$1 billion – a combination of an additional amount of 500 million and operational flexibility to use savings or reprogram - to help countries fight COVID-19, shore up health systems and mitigate the impacts on lifesaving HIV, TB and malaria programs. So far 806.4 million across 106 countries and 12 multicounty programs. Moved quickly, most often within ten days.
 - 117 million for diagnostic tests.
 - 201 million for the provision of personal protective equipment (PPEs) such as masks, gloves and gowns to protect front-line health workers.
- Countries can still access some funding through grant flexibilities; however, as most countries have already used their program savings or are unable to shift funds from HIV, TB and malaria programs, it is expected this source of funding will soon be exhausted.
- The Global Fund is working with donors and partners to urgently mobilize an additional US\$5 billion to help countries continue to fight COVID-19, mitigate the impact on HIV, TB and malaria, protect health workers and reinforce systems for health. Grateful for donors that already contributed - Germany's additional contribution of EUR150 million to the COVID-19 Response Mechanism is now being deployed; more funds are urgently needed to avoid a critical funding gap in the world's poorest countries in the coming weeks.
- The Global Fund is a founding partner of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global collaboration of organizations and governments working to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to new COVID-19

tests, treatments and vaccines once available. As part of the ACT-Accelerator, we are a co-convenor of both the Diagnostics Partnership (with FIND) and the Health Systems Connector (with the World Bank), and we are a procurement and deployment partner in the Therapeutics Partnership. We also co-lead the WHO Diagnostics Consortium along with UNICEF to negotiate pricing and procure diagnostic tests for COVID-19, and 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.

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- In conclusion: COVID-19 has had a substantial impact on overall progress we have made in the fight against HIV and TB (and malaria). We must do more to protect hard won-gains and to sustain momentum. We must massively increase collaboration, resources and innovation.
- The world must act with speed and scale, investing far greater resources than have yet been committed, to counter both the direct impact of COVID-19 and to mitigate the knock-on consequences for HIV and TB (and malaria).