

Support guidance for reprogramming Global Fund grants during COVID-19

This guide is established under the following principles issued by the Global Fund and included in their core COVID-19 guidance note:

- Countries are strongly encouraged to evaluate and take immediate action to mitigate the possible impact of COVID-19 on existing Global Fund grant-funded programs.
- Particular attention should be paid to the protection of health workers, communication with affected communities, maintenance of basic services, coordination of the supply chain, immediate replenishment of stock, disinfection of goods and waste management.
- Prepare and implement a contingency plan to ensure the implementation of activities of current grants for HIV, TB and Malaria that will be affected by COVID-19.

Some recommendations for prioritization that may be useful during the reprogramming process:

- Purchase of supplies and biosafety material for health centers, prioritizing as beneficiaries those centers with the highest influx of PLHIV.
- Purchases of basic supplies to protect the life of the PLHIV like masks or gel alcohol.
- Inputs for infection prevention and control in healthcare settings, prioritizing those centers with the highest influx of PLHIV.
- Actions to ensure HIV-related services continuity, whether prevention, treatment and care. Including actions to guarantee adherence to treatment.
- Instruments that facilitate the early detection of COVID-19 to allow the isolation of people and thus prevent new infections in PLHIV.
- Laboratory tests (including reagents for Genexpert) prioritizing centres that serve key populations and PLHIV.
- Epidemic Preparedness Assessments.
- Information campaigns with specific messages for people living with HIV/TB as well as for key or vulnerable population to HIV and TB.
- Surveys to gather information on the status of people with HIV, availability of treatment and access to services.
- Surveys to understand the availability and accessibility to COVID-related information and access to prevention services for groups of PLHIV and key population.
- Actions to strengthen the epidemiological surveillance of COVID-19 in people living with HIV.
- Actions to strengthen departmental or regional surveillance centres for the timely diagnosis of COVID-19 in PLHIV, prioritizing those centres that receive the highest amount of PLHIV.