CEPI’s Unique Impact Opportunity
Pandemic Preparedness & Response R&D
February 2022
What is CEPI?

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is a global partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil society entities to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics and pandemics. Its mission is to accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases (EID) and enable equitable access for all during outbreaks. CEPI was built to invest proactively in translational research for just-in-case vaccines and just-in-time platforms for serious EID outbreaks. During COVID-19, it moved quickly to accelerate development and manufacturing of new vaccines and was the only entity with the mandate to invest in de-risking COVID-19 vaccine research and development (R&D) with global, rather than national, access in mind. CEPI’s role in the COVID-19 global response has propelled development of an ambitious, yet achievable, five-year strategy to compress vaccine development for novel pathogens to 100 days, and advance prototype vaccines for future pandemic threats.

How is CEPI unique?

Positioned to address global threats.

- Mandated to advance R&D for vaccines for EIDs with epidemic and pandemic risk globally — not just for diseases that threaten certain regions or high-income countries.
- Funding the development of over 20 vaccine candidates for priority diseases such as Chikungunya, Lassa fever, MERS, Nipah, Rift Valley fever, and Ebola — as well as next generation COVID-19 and pan-Corona virus vaccines. CEPI has also established three rapid response platforms to develop vaccines against unknown pathogens, or “Disease X”.
- With its new strategy, CEPI aims to respond to the next global Disease X with a new vaccine in just 100 days.

Uniquely focused on equitable access for the global good.

- Mandated to serve global health interests equitably — particularly those of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), which are traditionally underserved despite the likelihood that the next pandemic will stem from an EID that emerges in a low-resource setting.
- Prioritizes global access to EID vaccines as a global good that benefits all countries, not as charity or aid. CEPI requires that vaccines produced with its support be accessible first and foremost in low-resource settings and includes equitable access provisions in all its contracts. CEPI also sources innovations from around the world, engaging with global R&D partners, crowding in public and private investors, and deliberately building a diversified product portfolio to advance vaccines suitable for widespread use.
- Funded the first Phase 3 trial of a Chikungunya vaccine and advanced the first-ever Nipah virus, MERS coronavirus, and Lassa virus vaccines into clinical testing.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, CEPI’s equitable access requirements have enabled COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) to access almost 3 billion doses of CEPI-supported vaccines for equitable distribution.
Built for catalytic impact.
- CEPI leverages investments and relationships with stakeholders across governments, philanthropy, and the private sector to pool funds to fuel R&D for global benefit and connect geographically diverse research teams to augment what can be accomplished through national medical R&D infrastructure.
- During COVID-19, global investments in CEPI fueled US$1.5 billion to accelerate the development of a diverse portfolio of 14 COVID-19 vaccine candidates, one of the world’s largest and most diverse.
- Initiatives — like its MERS Task Force — connect disease experts from around the world to share information, collaborate, and leverage learnings and investments that propel vaccine development.

Working in partnership: How CEPI complements national & regional pandemic preparedness initiatives

CEPI’s global mandate positions it to support and strengthen regional and national R&D institutions that work to counter pandemic threats but may not have the full global orientation of CEPI.

Africa
In Africa, where nearly 100% of vaccines are imported, CEPI has joined efforts with the African Union and the Institut Pasteur in Senegal to boost regional vaccine R&D manufacturing. CEPI is also working with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and research partners across Benin, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone to create the largest ever Lassa fever study, working to provide a more accurate assessment of the incidence of Lassa fever infections in the West African region. Over 20,000 participants are being recruited to take part in the study. The research will provide key information to help guide future late-stage Lassa vaccine clinical trials and potential vaccination strategies following licensure of a product.

North America
In the U.S., the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) is positioned to protect the U.S. against material threats, man-made and biologic. While BARDA is built to serve domestic populations and national interests in reaction to a threat or crisis, CEPI is positioned to act globally and proactively. BARDA led U.S. COVID-19 product development
efforts for vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics and supported all vaccines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. CEPI’s global efforts complemented this catalytic effort by de-risking COVID-19 vaccine R&D and manufacturing with global, rather than national, access in mind, and by supporting follow-on science to adapt COVID-19 vaccines for use in low-resource settings and advance next generation COVID-19 and pan-Corona virus vaccines.

Europe
Leveraging lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, CEPI is positioned to complement emerging instruments, such as the new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). By focusing foremost on global threats and equitable access to vaccines for EID threats — including global technology transfers, targeted R&D, and manufacturing — CEPI bolsters HERA with its primary mission to improve public health by strengthening the European Union’s (EU) preparedness and response for serious cross-border threats to health.

- CEPI’s global viewpoint, partner network, and financing can expand HERA’s aperture and bolster capabilities beyond EU resourcing, priorities, and expertise alone.
- CEPI invests heavily in enabling sciences that provide global benefits such standardized assays and harmonized clinical trials networks, and provides platforms for real-time information sharing with EU agencies like the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Medicines Agency that can improve coordination, speed, and agility of national and regional R&D.
- CEPI has a track record of working in close collaboration with and supporting and strengthening regional R&D institutions that complement HERA’s proposed interests, e.g., the African Union, Africa CDC, African Medical Association, and the International Finance Corporation.

CEPI’s Key Capabilities

| Mission centered on vaccines for emerging infectious disease (EID) threats | ✓ |
| Focus on diseases with global threat | ✓ |
| Provides direct funding for R&D for EIDs and “Disease X” | ✓ |
| Prioritizes global equitable access to new vaccines | ✓ |
| Views EID vaccines as a global good | ✓ |
| Leverages global investments to multiply impact | ✓ |