

Issue Brief

A New Fund for Global Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness

Why, What, and How
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Overview

Health experts from around the world have warned for years that countries, regional bodies, and global institutions must invest more in critical capacities to prevent, detect, and respond to epidemic and pandemic threats. In the wake of each global health emergency — from the SARS outbreak in 2003, to H1N1 in 2009, to the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa and now the COVID-19 pandemic — leaders and experts have stressed the need to sustainably invest in and build capacity for health security at the local, regional, and global levels. While the International Health Regulations (IHRs) and Joint External Evaluations (JEEs) encourage capacity building and assess country-level readiness to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to disease threats, these instruments have not been paired with structural support or sustained financing. Given the legacy of panic-and-neglect funding for pandemics and the cross-border nature of these threats, many countries have not prioritized investments in preparedness, leaving the entire world vulnerable to novel disease threats.

A dedicated new Fund for Global Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness can help fill these critical funding gaps in pandemic preparedness. The aim of this brief is to explain *what* a new fund should do, *why* the world needs it, and *how* it can augment and bolster the existing global health ecosystem.

Historical and Current Context

The current proposal for a Fund for Global Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness builds on a March 2020 call from global health policy experts for a [Global Health Security Challenge Fund](#) to catalyze additional, sustainable financing to close country-identified gaps in health security capacity. As the COVID-19 pandemic swept the globe, the proposal to establish such a dedicated fund gained traction and was championed by the [U.S. Congress](#) and the [White House, G20 High Level Independent Panel on Financing the Global Commons \(HLIP\)](#), and [Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response \(the Independent Panel\)](#).

In late 2021, G20 leaders heeded the call and established a Joint Health and Finance Task Force to review the proposal and recommend next steps for action. In April 2022, G20 finance ministers and central bank governors [reached consensus](#) to establish a new Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) at the World Bank for this purpose. Next steps are for the World Bank, World Health Organization, interested governments, and other stakeholders to design and agree on the financing priorities, investment modalities, monitoring and evaluation, governance, and accountability structures for the new fund.

Fund Priorities and Design

Strong, country- and regionally-led systems for health security are the bedrock of better preparedness, and country leadership and accountability must be at the core of a new Fund. Priorities should include:

- **Close critical gaps in national and regional preparedness, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)**, with a focus on providing funding to build and enhance core systems and capacities that constitute global public goods for preparedness. Country and regional partners

should inform the priorities of the fund and serve as implementers to enable country leadership and targeted resource allocation.

- **Generate new, diverse, and sustainable resources** for pandemic preparedness commensurate with the needs, reaching beyond overseas development assistance (ODA) and health budgets and leveraging both public and private sources of finance.
- **Complement the work of existing global health organizations and avoid further fragmentation of the global health architecture.** A fund should fill strategic gaps in pandemic preparedness not currently within the mandates of existing organizations. It should work closely with WHO and other leading global institutions to align efforts.
- **Work across sectors and advance an integrated, whole-of-government approach** to pandemic preparedness, including health, security, environment/climate, One Health, and finance sectors to reflect the full reach and impact of pandemic threats.
- **Mobilize grant financing while also incentivizing domestic resource mobilization** that does not contribute to further LMIC indebtedness. Grant funding can help catalyze domestic planning and budgeting for preparedness without forcing prioritization between pandemics and other health and domestic needs.
- **Link to measurable progress toward global preparedness indicators and support technical assistance** to implement capacity-building and monitor and evaluate effectiveness, leveraging leading tools such as the JEEs, the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, and the Global Health Security Index.
- **Ensure diverse leadership and governance to drive equity, transparency, and accountability** through high-level representation from a cross-section of governments at all income levels, multilaterals, foundations, civil society, academia, and private sector.

The Fund should prioritize progress on cross-cutting areas of pandemic preparedness beyond the current mandates or capacities of global health organizations, including:

- **Reliable, globally-coordinated and integrated disease surveillance, field epidemiology, data, and laboratory networks** for early detection and sequencing of emerging pathogens with pandemic potential, including zoonotic spillover.
- **Robust and effective biosafety, biosecurity, and research oversight and governance capacity** at the national and sub-national levels.
- **A well-trained, well-equipped frontline health workforce and infrastructure** capable of timely, agile, and effective infection prevention and control in the event of a serious outbreak while ensuring continued delivery of essential health services.
- **Stress-tested national, regional, and global systems** that can stop localized outbreaks from spreading, such as emergency operations centers, national public health institutes, communications networks, simulations, and pre-agreed response protocols.
- **National, regional, and global platforms to accelerate and coordinate rapid development, manufacturing, and equitable delivery** of medical countermeasures and supplies essential to controlling epidemics and pandemics.

Call to Action

In 2022, global leaders from governments, multilateral institutions, philanthropy, private sector, and civil society should converge to design, launch, and mobilize significant resources for a new Fund for Global Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness, toward a target capitalization of US\$10 billion annually — reflecting conservative cost estimates and recommendations of leading global finance and health experts.