

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE PANDEMIC FUND

July 19, 2023

1. The Seventh Meeting of the Governing Board of the Pandemic Fund was held virtually on July 19, 2023. The meeting was co-Chaired by Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana and Dr. M. Chatib Basri and covered two Agenda items: 1) Funding Allocation to Proposals under the first Call; and 2) Addressing TAP-Recommended Proposals that did not receive funding under first Call.
2. The Board co-Chairs thanked Spain for signing a Contribution Agreement for an additional €15m, bringing their total contribution to €20 million (US\$22.3 million), and welcomed Spain as an alternate voting member of the Sovereign Contributor constituency formed by France and the Netherlands.
3. Underscoring the historic nature of this Board meeting, the co-Chairs noted the remarkable progress made by the Pandemic Fund in a short period of time, since its inception fifteen months prior.
4. Members were reminded of their fiduciary role on the Board and the importance of mitigating any conflicts of interest, as per the Board-approved Conflicts of Interest (COI) Framework. Members who had provided their declaration of interest ahead of the meeting were thanked, and those who had not done so were requested to disclose any COI situation before making an intervention at the meeting.

A. ITEMS FOR DECISION BY VOTING MEMBERS

1. Funding Allocations to Proposals Under the First Call:

5. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Pandemic Fund's Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) provided an overview of the TAP's review and evaluation process as well as the recommendations. They noted that the TAP convened in Geneva between June 22 and 25, 2023 and reviewed the 135 eligible proposals to develop recommendations for the Board. The TAP Chair and Vice-Chair emphasized that the TAP's deliberations had adhered to strict confidentiality guidelines. Further, they noted that important lessons had been learned during this first round, which would be reflected in the Stocktaking and TAP evaluation to be prepared this year.
6. The Board noted that the 49 proposals recommended by the TAP represented a total amount of grants requested that far exceeded the agreed resource envelope for the first Call for Proposals (US\$300 million to US\$350 million). The Board thus requested the Secretariat to present the funding allocation scenarios that it had been asked to prepare, based on a set of agreed criteria, to help the Board prioritize among the proposals recommended by the TAP and agree on a preferred portfolio of proposals to be financed.
7. The Secretariat presented the scenarios, as laid out in the paper titled "*First Call for Proposals: Funding Allocation Scenarios*", which had been circulated to the Board on July 5, 2023. While it was noted that some constituencies had asked for additional scenarios that the Secretariat had subsequently provided, most Members agreed that the discussion should focus on the initial set of scenarios presented in the July 5th paper. Further, it was emphasized that there was no optimal scenario, and that selecting the preferred scenario, while staying within the desired resource envelope, would involve tradeoffs.
8. Each of the scenarios presented was carefully examined by the Board. In considering a preferred scenario, the Board reiterated its commitment to ensuring that the set of proposals selected for funding under the first Call should help create a portfolio that meets the criteria that were agreed by the Board at its Fifth Meeting, namely, and in order of priority: i) geographical distribution, to ensure balance across the six World Bank regions; a mix of countries by income group, i.e., a mix of low-, lower-middle-, and upper-middle-income/high-income

countries, with priority for low- and lower-middle-income countries; and iii) a diversity of Implementing Entities, by type, including a mix of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and United Nations (UN) organizations/global health initiatives (GHIs).

9. Further, the Board examined each portfolio scenario for: the total leverage it would bring (i.e., the amount of additional funds mobilized through co-financing and co-investment, for every dollar of grant funding from the Pandemic Fund); the number of countries it would support, including through single-country as well as multi-country/Regional proposals; the number of proposals with a One Health focus; consideration to Gender Equity tag; and support to Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations (FCS) in each scenario.¹
10. The Board's discussion centered on three Scenarios: one that included proposals covering fewer countries (23) and with only one multi-country/Regional proposal, and exceeded US\$350 million but resulted in a slightly higher leverage ratio (Scenario 2A); another that covered many more countries (37), included three multi-country/Regional proposals, and was within the US\$350 million envelope but resulted in a slightly lower leverage ratio (Scenario 2B); and a third that covered one less country (36), included three multi-country/Regional proposals, but with the lowest leverage ratio of the three Scenarios and surpassed US\$350 million (Scenario 2C).
11. Ultimately, the Board reached consensus on Scenario 2B as the preferred scenario, noting the following. First, that it is within the US\$350 million envelope. Second, that the grants allocated under this scenario to 19 proposals will enable support to the greatest number of countries (37) among the various alternative scenarios, including through three multi-country/Regional proposals that cover important cross-border collaboration that is critical to strengthening PPR. Third, the scenario represents good geographical balance across all World Bank regions in terms of the number of proposals supported. Furthermore, in terms of the proportion of grant funding allocated, over 30 percent is for proposals in sub-Saharan Africa, which is the region with the highest demand for funding under the first Call for Proposals, Fourth, over 75 percent of the proposals included in this scenario are for LIC/LMICs. Fifth, the proposals in this scenario involve the participation of a variety of implementing entities, with collaboration across UN agencies and MDBs. Sixth, the US\$338 million in grants allocated to proposals in this scenario will help mobilize around US\$2 billion in additional resources, representing significant leverage. Seventh, the scenario is strong on proposals that include a focus on One Health, CSO engagement and Gender Equity; on these latter metrics, it was noted that all scenarios are relatively similar.
12. The agreed language on this decision point was as follows:
 - *The Governing Board of the Pandemic Fund approves scenario 2B as contained in the paper "First Call for Proposals: Funding Allocation Scenarios", circulated to the Board on July 5, 2023, and allocates US\$338,391,290.32 to the proposals contained within it. Individual approved amounts, by Project/Implementing Entity/Purpose, will be detailed in the Annex to the Minutes of the meeting (see Annex 1 to these Minutes).*

¹ To support this, the Secretariat tagged proposals that included FCS. Further, per the Governing Board's request, the Secretariat also tagged proposals based on One Health, Gender Equity, and the level of participation/engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

2. Addressing TAP-recommended Proposals that did not receive Funding under the First Call:

13. The items tabled for the Board's decision in this segment focused on: 1) the need to inform all applicants about the Board's funding allocation decision and the process by which feedback will be shared with applicants whose proposals were not selected for funding under the first Call for Proposals; 2) how the Pandemic Fund can support proposals that were recommended by the TAP but not selected for funding under the first Call for Proposals; and 3) the timing of the second Call for Proposals.
14. *The Board agreed on the need to immediately inform all applicants about the outcomes of the first Call for Proposals and asked the Secretariat to convey this information to all applicants before issuing a press release. The Secretariat agreed to do this (all applicants were informed via email immediately after the meeting).*
15. In terms of detailed feedback to be provided to applicants, Members noted the need to differentiate between feedback on proposals that had been recommended by the TAP but not selected for funding vs. those that had not been recommended, emphasizing that proposals in the former category warranted detailed and constructive feedback. The Board took note of the TAP Vice-Chair's request that the feedback must be provided in a manner that respects confidentiality of TAP experts and ensures anonymity of the individual TAP experts. It was noted, in this context, that the Summary Score Cards developed by the TAP were intended for the Board as the primary audience and not written for the applicants and would therefore have to be adjusted before being shared with applicants. *The Board asked the Secretariat to take these comments into account and provide detailed and differentiated feedback to all unsuccessful applicants over the coming weeks, which the Secretariat agreed to do.*
16. The Board recognized the importance of maintaining the momentum and addressing the expectations of applicants who had submitted high quality proposals that could not be selected for funding under the first Call. Various options were discussed. *As a way forward, the Board agreed to aim to launch the second Call for Proposals before the end of calendar year 2023, with proposals due for submission in early-2024, while making sure that the second Call draws fully on the lessons learned from the first Call.* In this context, it was noted that the Stocktaking Review and TAP Evaluation, being conducted over the summer for discussion at the October Board meeting, will include detailed lessons from the first Call for proposals that should be factored into the second Call. In addition, the Secretariat was asked to start collecting and compiling lessons as soon as possible. It was agreed that the decision on the exact timing of the second Call for Proposals would be decided at the October Board meeting.
17. Members started to share some important lessons and reflections from the first Call, including the following. First, the application template for the second Call should require applicants to provide more details on the sources of co-financing and co-investment to allow for more robust measurement of the leverage ratio. Second, more thought needs to be given on how to incentivize co-financing from Implementing Entities. Third, it would be important to examine how allocation under the second Call can factor in support to countries/regions with the highest risk of pandemics. Fourth, deeper work is needed on the tagging of proposals in terms of gender equity and CSO engagement (both in proposal development and implementation). Fifth, going forward, it may be appropriate to cap the amount that can be requested for any individual proposal.

3. Press Release and FAQ:

18. The Board discussed a Press Release to announce the funding allocation decision, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document with more information about the Pandemic Fund and the selected Proposals for funding. At the Board's request, following the meeting, the Secretariat shared drafts of both documents with Members for comments, incorporated comments received, and issued the documents on July 20, 2023. The Press Release was translated into several languages for broader dissemination.

B. AOB:

19. The Secretariat presented a tentative schedule of the upcoming Board meetings, with the next meeting to be held in-person in Marrakech from October 7–9, 2023, just before the IMF-WB Annual Meetings. The Ninth Governing Board Meeting will be held virtually in late-November or early-December. This meeting will serve as an opportunity for the Board to undertake a mid-year budget review and to discuss the second Call for Proposals. Two additional Board Meetings and one Board Retreat have been planned for the remainder of the fiscal year although the dates of these meetings will depend upon the agreed timing of the second Call for Proposals.
20. The Secretariat thanked the Board for approving its FY24 Budget on a no-objection basis and added that as part of the mid-year fiscal update, the Secretariat will prepare a detailed Concept Note on Resource Mobilization for the Board’s consideration, and will include the costs associated with this work, and present it as a supplementary budget for the Board’s consideration and approval.
21. In conclusion, the co-Chairs thanked the Board, the TAP, and the Secretariat for their hard work in ensuring a successful meeting.

Annex 1: Allocations Approval Summary

Pandemic Fund Application ID	Project Name	Beneficiary Country/Region	Implementing Entities	Project Amount (A)	IE Fees (B)	Total approved amount (C) = (A)+(B)
94	Strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response through one health approach in Bhutan	Bhutan	WHO	2,636,916	250,003	2,886,919
			FAO	1,904,989	158,768	2,063,757
			Project totals:	4,541,905	408,771	4,950,676
156	Health emergencies preparedness and response strengthening in Togo	Togo	WHO	8,229,016	721,089	8,950,105
			UNICEF	2,038,991	156,729	2,195,720
			FAO	2,501,200	219,100	2,720,300
			Project totals:	12,769,207	1,096,918	13,866,125
190	Reducing the Public Health Impact of Pandemics in the Caribbean through Strengthened Integrated Early Warning Surveillance, Laboratory Systems and Workforce Development	Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenade, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago	IADB	15,273,296	763,665	16,036,961
			Project totals:	15,273,296	763,665	16,036,961
206	Strengthening Pandemic PPR in West Bank and Gaza	West Bank and Gaza	WHO	930,000	70,000	1,000,000
			WB	15,300,000	200,000	15,500,000
			FAO	2,803,738	196,262	3,000,000
			UNICEF	465,000	35,000	500,000
			Project totals:	19,498,738	501,262	20,000,000

214	Yemen pandemic preparedness and response project (PPRP)	Yemen	WHO	14,972,000	1,048,000	16,020,000
			UNICEF	4,673,000	327,000	5,000,000
			FAO	4,673,000	327,000	5,000,000
			Project totals:	24,318,000	1,702,000	26,020,000
244	Ethio-Pandemic Multi-Sectoral Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (EPPR)	Ethiopia	WHO	29,900,000	2,260,000	32,160,000
			UNICEF	1,860,000	140,000	2,000,000
			FAO	14,740,000	1,100,000	15,840,000
			Project totals:	46,500,000	3,500,000	50,000,000
318	Strengthening the National Capacity for Pandemic Preparedness and Response to Infectious Disease Outbreaks in Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	WHO	16,240,546	2,961,648	19,202,194
			Project totals:	16,240,546	2,961,648	19,202,194
361	PROTECT – Pandemic Response Optimization Through Engaged Communities and Territories	Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay	WHO	13,341,010	933,870	14,274,880
			WB	2,420,000	169,400	2,589,400
			Project totals:	15,761,010	1,103,270	16,864,280
369	Suriname Public Health Emergency Response Effort	Suriname	WHO	2,077,000	145,000	2,222,000
			Project totals:	2,077,000	145,000	2,222,000
370	Pandemic Preparedness and Response through a One Health approach in Central Asia	Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan	WB	8,946,422	3,102,443	12,048,865
			WHO	8,993,958	676,965	9,670,923
			FAO	5,059,789	380,844	5,440,633
			Project totals:	23,000,169	4,160,252	27,160,421

391	Strengthening critical pandemic PPR functions in Paraguay through holistic disease surveillance and functional early warning system, enhanced collaboration between human, animal and environmental laboratories and workforce capacity building, within the framework of One health and following IHR recommendations	Paraguay	WHO	1,817,400	127,200	1,944,600
			UNICEF	1,957,000	137,000	2,094,000
			IADB	1,764,100	123,500	1,887,600
			FAO	4,354,000	304,800	4,658,800
			Project totals:	9,892,500	692,500	10,585,000
485	Cambodia Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response (CamPPR)	Cambodia	WB	4,821,650	361,624	5,183,274
			FAO	3,455,000	241,850	3,696,850
			AIB	10,000,000	590,000	10,590,000
			Project totals:	18,276,650	1,193,474	19,470,124
488	Strengthening Pandemic Preparedness for Early Detection in Nepal (SPEED)	Nepal	WHO	9,150,980	640,570	9,791,550
			UNICEF	4,343,300	304,030	4,647,330
			FAO	4,116,860	288,180	4,405,040
			Project totals:	17,611,140	1,232,780	18,843,920
588	Strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response through One Health in Mongolia	Mongolia	WHO	11,422,675	799,587	12,222,262
			UNICEF	3,050,000	183,000	3,233,000
			Project totals:	14,472,675	982,587	15,455,262
617	Empowering Better Pandemic Preparedness and Response by Strengthening Human Resources, Enhanced Surveillance, and Advanced Lab Systems in Moldova	Republic of Moldova	WHO	3,848,251	258,913	4,107,164
			WB	5,612,000	280,600	5,892,600
			Project totals:	9,460,251	539,513	9,999,764

691	Zambia Multisectoral Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project (ZaMPPR)	Zambia	WHO	12,111,885.63	968,950.85	13,080,836.48
			FAO	5,364,598.93	429,167.91	5,793,766.84
			Project totals:	17,476,484.56	1,398,118.76	18,874,603.32
738	Strengthening disease surveillance systems, capacity of laboratories, and staff skills on public health emergency preparedness and coordination	Burkina Faso	WHO	10,786,000	539,000	11,325,000
			UNICEF	3,786,000	189,000	3,975,000
			FAO	3,857,000	192,000	4,049,000
			Project totals:	18,429,000	920,000	19,349,000
741	Cabo Verde - Strengthening National Health Security through One Health approach	Cabo Verde	WB	3,742,468	748,492	4,490,960
			Project totals:	3,742,468	748,492	4,490,960
794	Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response	India	WB	7,477,000	523,000	8,000,000
			FAO	4,673,000	327,000	5,000,000
			ADB	11,215,000	785,000	12,000,000
			Project totals:	23,365,000	1,635,000	25,000,000

Note: Prior to the preparation of the Letters of Commitment, to conform with the only two categories of funding provided for the in the Financial Procedures Agreement (FPA), the Trustee has requested that any amounts listed as “Other” in Table 1 of the proposals be re-classified into either Project Amount (“PPR Activity”) or IE Admin Fee (“IE Fees”). Proposals that have had to re-classify the “Other” amounts include: 94, 206, 370, 391, 488 and 741.