

Global Health Technologies Coalition Recommendations for Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the World Bank white paper on the development of a Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. The Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) agrees that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the critical need for fully funded, prepositioned, and coordinated financing mechanisms to ensure appropriate preparedness for and response to future potential pandemic threats. Below are key recommendations and principles for consideration that we hope will be reflected in the final white paper.

Key Principles/Recommendations:

1. **Mobilize new funds from across sectors and catalyze new investments for national and regional pandemic preparedness priorities.** The Fund must be additive and mobilize new, diverse resources for pandemic preparedness from a whole-of-government, whole-of-society perspective. It must not drive further competition for existing official development assistance or come at the expense of existing multilateral mechanisms.
2. **Complement existing global health institutions and financing mechanisms and avoid further fragmentation of the global health architecture.** It is vital that the FIF not simply become a “fund of funds,” but rather focus on investments needed to close identified gaps in preparedness at the country, regional, and global levels, complementing and addressing priorities not currently within the mandates of existing multilateral organizations. It will also be key for the FIF to formally coordinate its efforts with multilateral bodies to ensure efficient use of resources and maximum benefit to countries and regions.
3. **Prioritize both core capacity building and reserve funding for emergencies so that countries and regions have the tools they need to detect, prevent, and rapidly respond to outbreaks with pandemic potential.** The FIF should be a vehicle for long-term country and regional preparedness investments but also a mechanism that can be leveraged to address urgent and acute needs during a health emergency. This means supporting and investing in regionally distributed research capabilities for pandemic preparedness, including bolstering laboratory and surveillance networks, providing technical support for regulatory strengthening and harmonization, and facilitating the scaling of clinical research capacity in lower- and middle-income countries.
4. **Build regional and global R&D preparedness capacity.** The current white paper highlights that one of the focus areas for financing currently includes “capacity for coordinated development, procurement and deployment of countermeasures and essential medical supplies.” GHTC underscores the need for the FIF to be leveraged for investment in the coordinated surveillance,

rapid development, manufacturing, and equitable delivery of medical countermeasures essential to controlling epidemics and pandemics in every region. While initial resources may be limited, we believe that the FIF should seek to bolster all stages of end-to-end product development, ensuring that every country can access the tools and technologies they need to mitigate health threats.

5. **The governance of this Fund must formally include a diverse set of country voices and include robust mechanisms for engagement with civil society.** The FIF must build a model that enables countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries that were not equitably engaged in the global COVID-19 response, to articulate their own pandemic preparedness and response needs. Equity must be at the heart of the decision-making mechanisms, and these must ensure that civil society can meaningfully engage and provide input in the strategic decision-making and prioritization process. We also note that engaging vulnerable populations and affected communities needs to be prioritized in the governance model adopted by the FIF. From the perspective of ensuring access to countermeasures, these stakeholders provide an important demand signal of what tools and capacities they require, and their inclusion can ensure that the development and deployment of tools during a health emergency is fit for purpose in the context in which they will be used.