

Pandemic Fund: How the new institution has helped strengthen R&D capacity

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed deep and persistent gaps in global health systems—especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)—due to decades of underinvestment in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR). In 2022, the G20 launched the Pandemic Fund as the first multilateral financing mechanism dedicated solely to strengthening PPPR capacities, including surveillance, laboratory systems, and health workforce. To date, the Pandemic Fund has received more than \$3 billion in funding from more than 28 countries and major philanthropic organizations.

The Fund by the numbers



The Fund has awarded **\$885 million to 47 projects in 75 countries** to build resilient health systems prepared for the next health emergency. While the Fund has awarded grants in **six geographic regions**, most investments have funded projects in LMICs to address chronic underinvestment in PPPR capacity.



The Fund channels its financing to countries through **13 implementing entities** (IEs), which include regional development banks (like the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and regional banks) and other multilateral organizations. After funds are awarded, IEs act as intermediaries for countries, responsible for administering funds and financial support, offering technical assistance, and monitoring the progress of each country's project. On-the-ground execution and delivery of a project's components are carried out by beneficiaries and beneficiary-selected **delivery partners**, who are under subcontract by the country's IE(s).



The Fund has awarded \$885 million in its first three years and **mobilized \$6 billion more through co-financing and co-investment**¹, acting as a force multiplier and successfully **mobilizing over \$7 in additional funding for every \$1** from other sources.

Key focal areas

The Pandemic Fund supports projects that **strengthen capacity within and across borders** in the areas of **disease surveillance, laboratories and diagnostics, and health workforce**. These projects operationalize multisectoral approaches for PPPR, strengthening coordination and collaboration through dedicated resources for PPPR capacity-building while also incentivizing countries to **increase domestic investments** in this area to ensure sustainability and impact.

These investments support the ability of countries to conduct research, deploy medical countermeasures (such as novel diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics), and invest in national and regional institutions to sustain projects long after their grants wrap up. For example, the Pandemic Fund helps **build the laboratory and research infrastructure** necessary to run clinical trials and deploy diagnostic tests; **supports health workforce training programs**, which are critical for the development and delivery of new tools; and

strengthens surveillance systems, which provide important data to inform research into new medical countermeasures, though the Fund does not directly finance the development of health technologies.

R&D highlights

Below are a few examples of R&D-relevant activities the Fund has financed thus far:



Future of the Fund

Over its first two investment rounds, the Pandemic Fund has demonstrated the real-world value of financing PPPR efforts in low-resource settings, delivering measurable, country-led results. The Fund has already raised \$1 billion and is seeking **\$1 billion more** to meet global needs, and we urge donors to maintain momentum and sustain investment in the Pandemic Fund.

In turn, we encourage the Fund to:

- **Support locally led R&D**, prioritizing funding for innovations developed in and for LMIC contexts and fostering partnerships that build long-term R&D capacity.
- **Continue to meaningfully engage with civil society and community leaders** to shape priorities, monitor implementation, and hold institutions accountable.
- **Increase transparency and regular performance reporting** with timely updates on project progress, challenges, and outcomes to ensure accountability and inform future funding decisions.
- **Facilitate transparency and diverse selection of delivery partners**. As beneficiaries identify delivery partners for their projects, the Fund should offer clarity on the roles and selection criteria for them and encourage inclusion of other R&D players (such as product developers and regional manufacturers).

-
1. The Fund has prioritized sustainability and local buy-in in its funding model. After identifying its IE and delivery partner, countries determine avenues of co-financing (financial contributions from IEs and/or other sources, such as bilateral aid agencies, philanthropies, and potential private-sector funders) and co-investment (financial resources provided by co-investors, like representatives from Fund-eligible country representatives).
 2. Through co-financing and co-investment, each country project example had additional funding on top of the original amount awarded by the Pandemic Fund. The sums below reflect the total amount each country had available (from the Pandemic Fund plus co-financing plus co-investments), not the amounts dedicated to R&D.
 - Latin America and the Caribbean Region: \$373.5 million (\$16.8 million from the Fund, \$356.4 million in co-financing, \$200,000 in co-investment).
 - Guyana: \$112.1 million (\$15.6 million from the Fund, \$7.6 million in co-financing, \$88.9 million in co-investment).
 - Indonesia: \$274.1 million (\$25 million from the Fund, \$21.6 million in co-financing, \$227.5 million in co-investment).
 - South Africa: \$64.4 million (\$25 million from the Fund, \$12.4 million in co-financing, \$27 million in co-investment).