



Global Response to Health Challenges needs Public-Private Partnerships

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Global Response to Health Challenges is failing The North South gap has grown (again)

- Covid 19 has served as a revelator – as HIV did 25 years ago as both a revelator of the global shortcomings and the trigger for doing it right
- We are again at a critical juncture – Health is a condition for human development and a basic human right

- Lack of leadership to “impose a partnership framework in support of equitable access to health systems and products
- The private sector is not doing what it should – more interested in immediate gains and posturing
- Governments are not playing their role – too shy
- Institutions are having a very difficult time surviving in turbulent times
- WHO is actually saying the right things – but not sufficiently supported politically and therefore not able to overcome vested interests

WHO Director-General's remarks at global meeting on future respiratory pathogen pandemics – 25 April 2023



When I was first elected Director-General almost six years ago, people used to ask me what kept me awake at night. I would answer without hesitating: a global pandemic of a respiratory pathogen.

That's what PRET is designed to do, by bringing important advances to our work on pandemic preparedness planning, building upon the experiences and work in countries.

Preparedness, prevention, and response activities must not be the province of the health sector alone.

we seek your commitment to ensure that PRET is a joint, inclusive project, bringing together stakeholders from across sectors, including faith-based organizations, vulnerable populations, and labour organizations.

WHO launches new initiative to improve pandemic preparedness

CALL TO ACTION

WHO, Member States, and partners are working together to identify and implement priority actions to strengthen national, regional, and global preparedness for pandemics and emerging infectious disease threats. We recognize the role of communities and all sectors, and the need for harmonized and sustained momentum to end the cycle of panic and neglect that is all too common in pandemic preparedness and response.

We recall lessons from previous epidemics and pandemics, especially those caused by respiratory pathogens. These pathogens have and will continue to pose a significant global threat with the potential to cause tremendous morbidity and mortality, overwhelm health systems, de-stabilize the global economy, and exacerbate inequities, which exist in the access to both the tools to prevent pandemics and health care for all people.

This is a Call to Action to accelerate preparedness for pandemics and emerging threats globally. Effective preparedness relies on robust planning and coordinated action. A collective commitment on the following actions will see progress achieved by December 2025 as will be described in the (Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) monitoring framework:

(1)

Update preparedness plans that affirm priority actions and that have considered learnings from past events. Recognizing the risk posed by respiratory pathogens, planning for a respiratory pathogen pandemic based on the themes identified in the *PRET Module #1: Planning for Respiratory Pathogen Pandemics* is a priority.

(2)

Increase connectivity among stakeholders in pandemic preparedness planning through systematic coordination and cooperation. This includes building equitable systems; conducting joint exercises; and sharing information on good practices, challenges, and opportunities.

(3)

Dedicate sustained investments, financing and monitoring of pandemic preparedness with a particular focus on addressing the gaps identified during past pandemics and epidemics.

The COVID-19 pandemic response has demonstrated what can be achieved with political commitment, community engagement and funding. At the heart of this work is to ensure equity to be ready for the next pandemic together. Whole-of-society action is needed to make the progress outlined in this Call to Action. Implementation should therefore strengthen the resilience of communities; maintain, sustain, and build on routine systems; and leverage broader capacities for emergency preparedness and response.

This Call to Action was released at the Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET): Global Meeting for Future Respiratory Pathogen Pandemics held on 24-26 April 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.

- The public private partnerships are the only way to achieve the common goal
- As Paul Polman used to say “you need infinite patience” to build these partnerships
- You must create the conditions for building trust and clear principles of transparency
- The flurry of innovation, digital solutions will only be as productive and useful as they should if a “partnership” supports them
- There will be no equitable access to public goods without a true partnership framework

- It has been done before and it can be done again
- Policy framework exists – OECD principles of aid effectiveness
- All that is required is the political will to call all players to accept the principles and modalities of a partnership framework that will ensure equitable access to health services and partnerships as public goods
- We have an obligation to succeed together in partnership