

Coronavirus Global Response Summit: External Response Factsheet

PREVENT – TEST – TREAT

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Coronavirus is a global pandemic. It affects practically every country in the world. More than three million have been infected so far and it is still spreading fast. We have already lost thousands of lives to this virus. We must act now.

The aim of the Coronavirus Global Response Summit is twofold: to join forces and mobilise resources. The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB), an accountability and advisory body created by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank and co-convened by both organizations, estimated the funding gap at €7.5 billion. To jointly defeat the virus, we must urgently focus our work on prevention, testing and treatment, and develop as soon as possible a vaccine which we can produce and deploy to every single corner of the world. Funding will be channelled via three main strands:

PREVENT



We must develop a vaccine to immunise the world's population against the virus, and fund both the mass-production and mass roll-out of the vaccine around the world.

TEST



We must develop ways to test and diagnose the virus, that can be rolled out globally, so those who are immune and those who are at risk can be accurately identified.

TREAT



We must develop ways of treating those infected by the virus, to reduce the number of deaths and take pressure off health systems.

The only way to defeat this virus is by working together. This is why the European Commission has been co-hosting this event alongside France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Canada, G20, Spain, the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. Experienced and respected organisations have also stepped in to support the effort and provide invaluable expertise, including the GPMB, the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, the Wellcome Trust, the WHO, and many others. The pledging event on 4th May has collected €7.4 billion for COVID-19 related research, prevention, diagnostics and treatment.

This Summit is an integral part of the multilateral response to the emergency and aligns with on-going UN appeals. It stems directly from the G20 Leaders' commitment and the ensuing G20 Action Plan to provide immediate resources for the global health response.

This factsheet sets out what the EU will do around the world to promote each of the three areas identified above, from the perspective of International Partnerships. Actions described are complementary to the efforts to strengthen health systems.

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PREVENT

Health is a **global public good** enshrined in the **Sustainable Development Goals**. Everybody on the planet deserves access to the advances of science, and nobody is safe if vulnerable health systems are overwhelmed by unexpected events of devastating consequences like disease outbreaks. The world community has an opportunity to demonstrate how collective international public health action can build a safer future for humanity.

The EU is committed to strengthening health systems in partner countries. One way it does this, for example, is through the **EU-WHO Health Systems Strengthening for Universal Health Coverage Partnership Programme**. Health systems strengthening involves an array of initiatives and strategies that improve the functions of the health system and lead to better health outcomes through improvements such as increased health workforce capacity, access, coverage, quality, or efficiency.

The EU, through the European Commission, has supported WHO in the past decade with over half billion euro, especially through the Health Systems Strengthening for Universal Health Coverage Partnership, which is currently active in 110 countries. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU announced a total of €114 million to WHO, including a topping up/redirecting of fund under the UHC Partnership of €51,5 million to support sustainable emergency preparedness measures in especially vulnerable countries.

The WHO has defined six building blocks of health systems: health workforce, health information systems, access to essential medicines and pharmaceutical systems, health systems financing, leadership and governance, and health services delivery. The EU supports low and middle-income countries to prevent and respond to disease outbreaks and infectious diseases while promoting universal health coverage (UHC). UHC means that all people should have access to quality health services (including prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation) while also ensuring that patients and their families do not suffer financial hardship.

Examples of prevention efforts are **immunization** activities (delivery of vaccines), **information, communication and awareness raising** campaigns, and **sustainable health security preparedness** to minimise the dangers and negative impacts of acute public health events that endanger people's health across boundaries.

In the short term, together with EU Member States, we will underpin the implementation of the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 led by the **Africa Centre for Disease Control** (Africa CDC). We will support the coordination, surveillance and response services provided by Africa CDC's operationalised network of Regional Collaborating Centres and National Public Health Institutes.

The long term cooperation between the European and African CDCs, at the continental level, will strengthen Africa CDC's capacities in sustainable **preparedness and response to all health threats**. It will also facilitate **harmonised regional surveillance systems and health workforce development**. Likewise, we will help strengthen preparedness and response capacity in those countries with the weakest health systems, improving how they deal with infectious diseases while mitigating unintended effects.



TEST

Diagnostics are critical for identifying the presence of a disease and determining an appropriate course of treatment. Diagnostics are therefore essential health services to tackle COVID-19 and other diseases.

The European Commission, the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have partnered to co-finance a new health financing platform of €105 million: the **African Health Diagnostics Platform (AHDP)**. The aim of the AHDP is to support projects that increase access to cost-effective, quality diagnostic testing services for low-income populations in sub-Saharan Africa.

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The deployment of the AHDP will take place according to the intrinsic nature of each national health system and the focus will be on laboratory and diagnostic services related to public health priorities as defined by partner governments, including infectious diseases (e.g. COVID-19, tuberculosis, HIV, malaria, Ebola, or others), non-communicable diseases, and routine diagnostics.

The AHDP includes partial guarantees on public sector payments to private laboratory companies, EIB loans to private laboratories and diagnostics companies, EIB sovereign loans on concessional terms, and technical assistance (in the form of grants). The AHDP is currently exploring opportunities in several African countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Malawi or Senegal.



The **EU assists partner countries and provides practical support through policy dialogue, technical and financial assistance**. It is crucial that support is rapidly provided to relevant international organisations, as well as partner governments and civil society, and in collaboration with the private sector and financial institutions. It is also crucial to ensure and maintain the stewardship of national governments and the adherence to national policies.

Access to treatments requires robust health systems and a comprehensive approach. The EU therefore supports a wide variety of initiatives, including:

- Global initiatives (such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria), and UN organisations with a strong track-record in the procurement of health products for the most fragile countries.
- Facilitating partner country's own procurement, equitable stockpiling and distribution of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, health products and technologies.
- **Health workforce** development, to provide such treatments.
- **Enhancement of pharmaceutical systems** and access to high quality, safe, efficacious and affordable medicines, vaccines and health technologies, including assistance to develop pharmaceutical regulations and supply chains for the delivery of essential health commodities.
- **Creation of local capacity for manufacturing** health products.
- **Coordination at the global, regional and national levels**, avoiding fragmentation and duplication of efforts, and promoting an efficient humanitarian-development nexus.
- Reinforcement of synergies between the **health response and the socio-economic response**, understanding that effective policies require a multidimensional lens and a whole-of-government approach.

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