

ACTaccelerator  
ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS

# Case for Private Sector Support

How to support the ACT Accelerator:  
A guide for private sector donors



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## **COVID-19 Has Brought the World to its Knees**

By the beginning of December 2020, COVID-19 had killed more than 1.5 million people and infected more than 63 million in every part of the world.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates the pandemic will cost the global economy US\$ 28 trillion in lost output by 2025. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 495 million full-time equivalent jobs will be lost in the second half of 2020 and the World Bank estimates 150 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by 2021. More than US\$ 12 trillion has already been spent by G20 countries to deal with the consequences of the pandemic. These devastating economic consequences are causing major setbacks to human capital development.

As bad as these figures are, the current epidemiological data on the velocity and trajectory of the virus's spread suggest that we are still near the start of the pandemic. No more than 10% of the world's population is estimated to have yet contracted the virus, meaning the vast majority are still at risk. Ten countries account for 70% of all reported cases and deaths and just three countries account for half. There is still a long way for the virus to develop if left unchecked.

But there is hope.

Unprecedented global collaboration means that we have significantly advanced our understanding of what works to fight the disease. We have new tests that provide results in less than 30 minutes. We have strong evidence that dexamethasone saves lives among people with severe symptoms, while trials on other new medicines such as monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) are advancing quickly. We have a wide portfolio of vaccine candidates - many on the cusp of regulatory approval and more finalizing phase 3 trials. Clinical practice has advanced understanding of how oxygen, personal protective equipment (PPE), and overall health system capabilities can be best used to improve a patient's chances of recovery. We also have a globally agreed Equitable Access Framework for COVID-19.

The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator has contributed to all of these achievements.

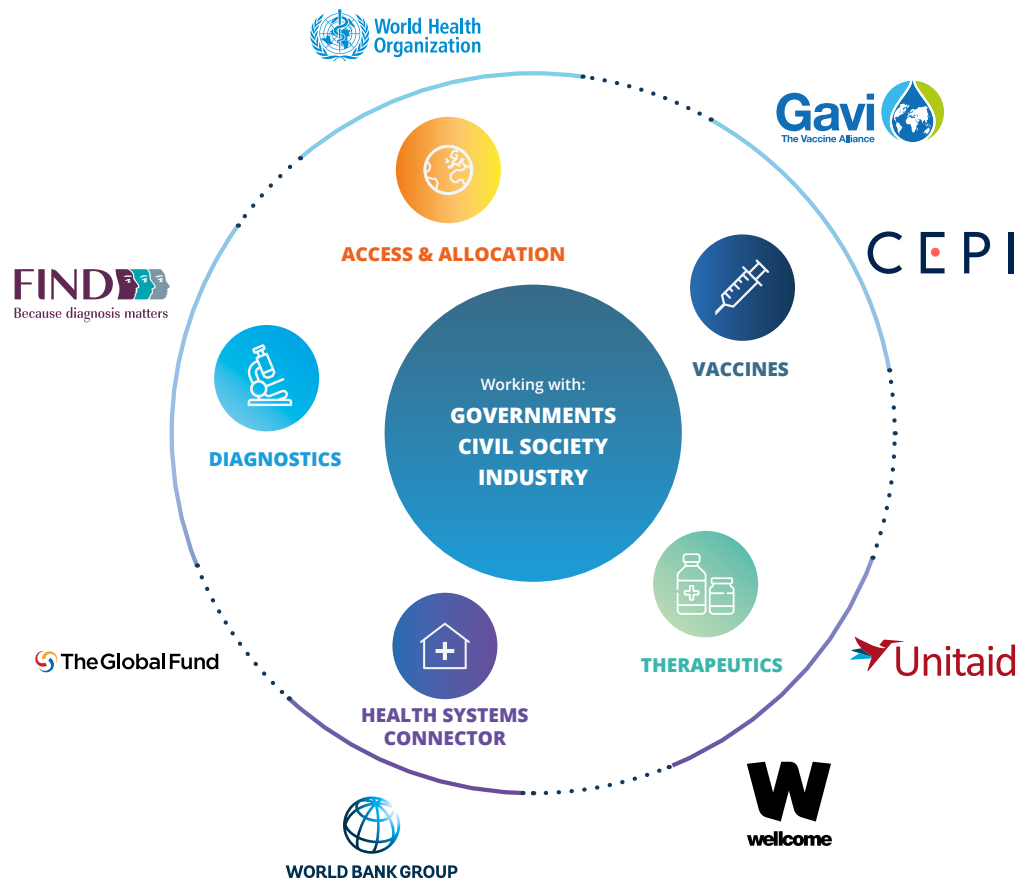
But while the development and rollout of new tools have been rapidly accelerated, broad and equitable access for all tools is severely lacking because of a major financing gap. Unless that gap is filled, we will not exit this crisis leading to many more lives lost, years of global development gains at risk, and deeper economic stress.

Access to and uptake of existing tools remains extremely limited, especially in low-income countries (LICs) and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs). If not urgently addressed, this growing equity gap will only worsen as new tools become available and supply remains scarce.

Only a fundamental change in funding and approach will turn that new hope into an effective weapon against the virus. The ACT Accelerator is pivotal to realizing that hope. But a substantial injection of financial support for the work of the ACT Accelerator is urgently needed - from governments and private funders - to reverse the increasing risk of access gaps and disparities between high-income countries, LICs and LMICs, and to prevent a prolonging of the human and economic devastation caused by this crisis. Economic activity will not return to normal until all countries have brought the pandemic under control.

## The ACT Accelerator is the Pandemic Exit Strategy

The ACT Accelerator is a ground-breaking global collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. Launched in April 2020, the ACT Accelerator brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, philanthropists and global health organizations (the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)**, the **Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)**, **Gavi**, the **Vaccine Alliance**, **Global Fund**, **Unitaid**, **Wellcome**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, and the **World Bank**).



These global health organizations, working across five workstreams – vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics, health systems and access & allocation – have joined forces to speed up an end to the pandemic by supporting the development and equitable distribution of 2 billion vaccine doses to the world by the end of 2021, 245 million courses of treatment and 500 million diagnostic tests to LICs and LMICs in 2021.

The ACT Accelerator proof of concept is clear from the results achieved so far, including:



## Diagnostics

- 50 million polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests have been made available to enhance testing in LMICs.
- New rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) have been developed and affordable price guarantees secured for 120 million tests for LMICs.



## Therapeutics

- Access to dexamethasone to treat severe COVID-19 cases has been expedited through an Emergency Use Listing (EUL) procedure, publication of treatment guidelines, and establishment of a stockpile for emergency use.
- Therapeutics Pillar partners have secured dexamethasone courses for up to 2.9 million patients in LMICs through an advance purchase agreement.
- Manufacturing capacities are reserved for scale-up of monoclonal antibodies.



## Vaccines

- A broad and dynamic portfolio of 10 key vaccine candidates is established and a further nine candidate vaccines which complement the current CEPI portfolio are currently being evaluated for inclusion in the COVAX Facility.
- Manufacturing capacities for 1 billion vaccine doses are secured.



## Health Systems Connector:

- US\$ 200 million worth of PPE has been procured for LMICs.



## Access and Allocation:

- A globally-agreed Equitable Access Framework for COVID-19 Tools and a specific allocation mechanism for COVAX Facility vaccines has been developed.
- New rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) have been developed and affordable price guarantees secured for 120 million tests for LMICs.

The September 2020 [ACT Accelerator Investment Case and Financing Requirements](#) lays out the economic arguments for investing in the ACT Accelerator as the most viable global solution for enabling countries to transition out of the current crisis and thereby restart the domestic and international economic engines driving our global economy. The accompanying September 2020 [Status Report & Plan](#) summarizes the first five months of progress across each of the workstreams. A sharpening of near-term priorities and their urgent financing requirements are presented in the 10 November [Urgent Priorities and Financing Requirements](#).

## **Flexible Funding at Scale Must be Secured Quickly to Deliver on the Promise of the ACT Accelerator**

While significant progress has been made in financing the overall budget, as of mid-December, US\$ 4.3 billion is urgently needed to accelerate progress and deliver on the promise of the ACT Accelerator. These funds will enable the ACT Accelerator to achieve near-term goals, specifically to:

### **Diagnostics Pillar:**

- Accelerate diagnostic innovation towards transformative, low-cost self-tests and digital solutions.
- Support countries that cannot shoulder the costs alone by providing procurement funding.

### **Therapeutics Pillar:**

- Directly support LMIC access to mAbs including dosing and formulation research efforts; market preparation for mAbs usage in LICs and LMICs, and procurement of mAbs courses for which 2021 capacity has been secured.
- Support ongoing trial platforms to ensure the applicability of treatments to LICs and LMICs.
- Leverage flexible funding for procurement of assets with expected clinical readouts in early 2021.

### **Vaccines Pillar:**

- Research and development to ensure CEPI is able to accelerate late-stage clinical trials for priority vaccine candidates, as well as to allow WHO to facilitate the global Solidarity phase III trial.
- Enable the COVAX Advanced Market Commitment to ensure that LICs and LMICs will have access to COVAX Facility vaccines.

### **Health Systems Connector:**

- Support integrated country readiness assessments and plans to guide target investment to address delivery system bottlenecks ahead of the introduction of new COVID-19 tools.
- Accelerate availability of two critical tools not provided by the other pillars, oxygen and PPE, as high-priority commodities.

Details of funding requirements are summarized in the ACT Accelerator [Urgent Priorities and Financing Requirements](#), which will be regularly updated.



## The Private Sector is Central to Ensuring a Fully-Funded ACT Accelerator

Corporate and philanthropic funding is a critical element of ACT Accelerator financing: as of mid-December, dozens of private sector partners together accounted for 12% of all [contributions](#) to the ACT Accelerator (US\$ 619 million of US\$ 5.03 billion). The value of private sector financing is measured not only by the volume of funding provided, but by the speed with which it can be made available and by its catalytic nature.

Supporting the ACT Accelerator is in everyone's interest. In this pandemic, there is no difference between helping oneself and helping others.

## How the Private Sector Can Support the ACT Accelerator

The ACT Accelerator is a time-limited collaboration designed to rapidly leverage existing global public health infrastructure and expertise, with each contributing organization being a key player in its respective domain: access to research and development (CEPI, FIND, Wellcome), regulatory and standard-setting expertise (WHO), market shaping, procurement experience and country preparedness (Unitaid, Global Fund, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance), as well as health systems and delivery (World Bank, WHO).

The work of these ACT Accelerator partners is driven through three product Pillars (Vaccines, Therapeutics, Diagnostics), supported by the cross-cutting Health Systems Connector and guided by the Access & Allocation workstream, all of which are fully empowered to develop and implement workplans through their own structures and processes.

There are two options for private sector donors to contribute:

1. Donors are invited to contribute to individual ACT Accelerator partner organizations directly as detailed below.
2. Donors also have the option to provide flexible funding to support the most urgent needs across ACT Accelerator agencies and pillars by donating to the [ACT Together Fund](#) hosted by the United Nations Foundation. To find out more, or to make a contribution, please contact [ACTtogetherfund@unfoundation.org](mailto:ACTtogetherfund@unfoundation.org).

The **Diagnostics Pillar** is co-convened by FIND and the Global Fund with WHO leading on key aspects. It aims to rapidly identify game-changing new diagnostics for the world, and to bring 500 million affordable, high quality rapid diagnostic tests to market by mid-2021 for populations in LICs and LMICs. To support the work of Diagnostics Pillar, please be in touch with:

**FIND:** [actadiagnostics@finddx.org](mailto:actadiagnostics@finddx.org)

**Global Fund:** [gf\\_acta@theglobalfund.org](mailto:gf_acta@theglobalfund.org)

The **Therapeutics Pillar** is co-convened by Unitaid and the Wellcome with WHO leading the policy, regulatory and related work. It seeks to develop and support scale-up of manufacturing for the world, and procure and distribute 245 million treatment courses for populations in LICs and LMICs within 12 months. To support the work of the Therapeutics Pillar, please be in touch with:

**Unitaid:** [unitaid@who.int](mailto:unitaid@who.int)

**Wellcome:** [epidemics@wellcome.org](mailto:epidemics@wellcome.org)

The **Vaccines Pillar** – also known as COVAX – is co-convened by CEPI, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and WHO. Its role is to ensure that vaccines are rapidly developed, manufactured at the right volumes without compromising on safety, and delivered to those that need them most. The Advance Market Commitment (AMC) is the financing instrument that will support the participation of 92 LIC and LMIC economies. Its goal by early 2021 is to secure 2 billion doses through the COVAX Facility. All participating countries, regardless of income levels, will have equal access to these vaccines once developed. To support the work of the Vaccines Pillar, please be in touch with:

**CEPI:** [ACTA@cepi.net](mailto:ACTA@cepi.net)

**Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance:** [COVAX\\_PrivateSector@gavi.org](mailto:COVAX_PrivateSector@gavi.org)

The **Health Systems Connector** works across the three product Pillars and is co-convened by the World Bank, Global Fund and WHO. It aims to assist countries with rapid assessment and country-led plans that strengthen key aspects of health systems and local community networks to unlock health system bottlenecks to optimize the delivery and implementation of new and expanded COVID-19 tools. It also aims to ensure sufficient supplies of essential PPE and medical oxygen in LMICs to protect front-line workers and to enhance the capacity of health systems to save lives. To support the work of the Health Systems Connector, please be in touch with:

**Global Fund:** [gf\\_acta@theglobalfund.org](mailto:gf_acta@theglobalfund.org)

**WHO:** [acta-support@who.int](mailto:acta-support@who.int)

The **Access & Allocation** workstream is led by WHO and directs the ACT Accelerator's work on global access and allocation. To support the work of the Access & Allocation workstream, please be in touch with:

**WHO:** [acta-support@who.int](mailto:acta-support@who.int)

## ACT Accelerator Resources

- The ACT Accelerator [Urgent Priorities & Financing Requirements](#) provides an update on financing priorities as of 12 November.
- The ACT Accelerator Economic [Investment Case](#) provides an economic rationale for investing in ACT-A as a global, integrated, 'end-to-end' solution, September 2020.
- [Status Report & Plan](#) provides an overview of ACT Accelerator's goal, approach, achievements to date & near-term priorities.
- [ACT Accelerator commitment tracker](#). The ACT-Accelerator Commitment Tracker provides transparent reporting on funding commitments made against ACT-Accelerator Pillar budgets.
- [The Human Cost of COVID-19](#) tells the stories of how individuals in South Africa, Afghanistan, Indonesia and Austria are facing COVID-19.
- [ACT Accelerator Diagnostics Pillar Investment Case](#).
- [ACT Accelerator Therapeutics Pillar Investment Case](#).
- [ACT Accelerator Vaccines Pillar Investment Case](#).



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