

The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board calls for a Scaled-Up Global Response to COVID-19: Talking points

Summary

- The GPMB is calling for at least **5.1.1c** of **new** funding to address significant urgent gaps in the global response to COVID-19. Mobilizing these financial resources is an urgent priority for G7, G20 and the Multilateral Financial Institutions.
- Key needs include:
 - fully funding the WHO to coordinate and prioritize support efforts to the most vulnerable countries
 - developing new diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines
 - strengthening regional surveillance and coordination
 - ensuring sufficient supplies of protective equipment for health workers.
- The costs of inaction, or responding slowly, are huge both in human and economic terms.

Why is this important?

- Disruption to people, communities, businesses, health systems and economies is going to get even worse - we need decisive and swift action.
- Its only a matter of time before COVID-19 reaches countries with much weaker health systems than China, South Korea, the US or Europe. When it does, the case fatality rate may increase due to lack of access to critical care facilities for the most severe cases.
- We welcome strong commitments by World Bank and IMF but many gaps remain in the response.

Impact of COVID-19

- Over 90,000 confirmed cases in 73 countries, and 3,112 deaths as of 3 March. The epidemic is progressing at unprecedented speed and the prospect of a pandemic with multiple waves is increasing.
- The growth of cases reported around the world led to a stock market plunge last week, with around **5.1.1c** knocked off global share prices, and global supply chains affected. Predicted global economics losses are greater than from SARS (2003), Ebola (2014-2016), MERS in South Korea (2015), and Zika (2015-2016) *combined*.
- This is now a whole of society issue: it will place enormous pressure on emergency rooms; it will cause social disruption with the closure of schools and businesses; it will disrupt supply chains. For example, China is the main supplier of active pharmaceutical ingredients for antibiotics' and disruption to production could substantially impact supplies of these critical drugs.
- This epidemic is also straining already stretched health systems.

5.1.1c breakdown

- Fully fund the WHO to support preparedness and emergency response: **5.1.1c** WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan calls for \$675m. Replenishment of the [Contingency Fund for Emergencies](#), requires **5.1.1c** annually depending on the number and extent of outbreaks.
- Strengthen unmet needs for regional surveillance and control efforts: **5.1.1c**



- Development of COVID-19 vaccines: 5.1.1c CEPI estimates that it needs up to \$2bn to accelerate vaccine development. The figure *does not include* costs for subsequent manufacturing, delivery or administration.
- Distributed manufacturing and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to Gavi eligible countries: 5.1.1c
- Development of therapeutics to treat COVID-19: 5.1.1c to develop one simple new chemical entity (NCE), one complex NCE, one simple repurposed drug, and one complex repurposed drug, and one biologic (monoclonal antibody product).
- Development of diagnostics for COVID-19: 5.1.1c
- Manufacturing and delivery of COVID-19 therapeutics and diagnostics in LMICs: 5.1.1c
- Stockpile of COVID-19 vaccines and personal protective equipment: 5.1.1c