



Joint Finance and Health Ministerial Meeting (JFHMM)

SUMMARY

**G20/World Bank/World Health Organization
Operational Playbook for Pandemic
Response Financing**

October 2024

BACKGROUND

The Operational Playbook (“Playbook”) was developed in response to the New Delhi Leaders declaration, which called for “*optimized, better-coordinated, and suitably enhanced financing mechanisms for pandemic responses*”. It is based on the analysis from the Mapping Pandemic Response Financing Options and Gaps paper¹ and feedback from members of governments, international organizations, and financial institutions. The Playbook is a non-binding and living reference tool designed to support government and the range of finance and health stakeholders to consider their roles to enhance the speed, scale, and coordination of financing for future pandemic responses. It builds on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and previous large-scale outbreaks, incorporating feedback from various stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, multilateral development banks, global health initiatives, and civil society.

While the International Health Regulations (2005) provide an overarching legal framework that defines countries’ rights and obligations in handling public health events and emergencies that have the potential to cross borders, and is the primary coordinating entity for health emergencies, many countries and organizations have their own playbooks and plans to support meeting these obligations. This Playbook aims to provide a shared understanding of pandemic response financing needs and sources, covering both domestic and external financing options for the health, social and economic responses, including access to medical countermeasures (MCMs) such as diagnostic, therapeutic and vaccines. At this stage, the Playbook focuses on access to financing in particular for countries where domestic resource mobilisation may be inadequate.

KEY INSIGHTS AND ACTIONS

The Playbook outlines key insights and actions to improve the speed, sequencing, and scale of response financing in a pandemic. It highlights the importance of putting in place domestic institutional arrangements between finance and health, assessing domestic resource mobilisation options and working with International Organisations and International Financial Institutions to put in place pre-agreements where and when possible, to ensure rapid access to financing. Such measures can save significant time and increase the speed of a country’s access to financing, enabling better predictability and sequencing of finance and more rapid identification of financing gaps to respond to an emergency. While countries can develop informed financing plans for a health emergency, there is a need for International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Global Health Initiatives (GHIs), and other partners to also ensure that they have Based on substantive feedbacks received from members, e the governance processes in place to respond to country needs in a timely matter, including working closely on assessments of expected product financial needs and administrative resources to meet any surge in demand. Coordination and agreement on decision-making in key areas such as access to key medical products like diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines are also critical issues.

Some key themes of the Playbook include:

Flexibility and Adaptability: Recognizing that pandemics vary widely in their characteristics and impacts, the Playbook adopts a flexible approach that respects national sovereignty and existing governance structures.

¹. Developed by World Health Organization and the World Bank for the G20 Joint Finance – Health Ministerial Meeting (August, 2023).

Interconnectedness of Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR) to Pandemics: Emphasizing that investments in pre-crisis capacities can significantly reduce the costs and consequences of response.

Coordination and Collaboration: Stressing the importance of international Finance and Health collaboration and information sharing to improve coordination and speed up access to financing.

UPDATES FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

The intended audience of this Playbook is wide-ranging and therefore the focus at this stage was access to finance recognising the importance to help support preparation, institutional coordination planning, early engagement and initial discussions when a pandemic unfolds. This version of the Playbook may be used to support deliberations on the response to Mpox, which was recently declared as a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security by Africa CDC and a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by WHO.

The Playbook is intended to be a living document, to reflect changes in the response financing ecosystem and evolving best practices.

The next steps for the JFHTF Secretariat could include:

1. Further develop sections on coordination and governance, working with WHO and World Bank to provide policy proposals on clearer actions along specific timeframes to be taken by stakeholders in consultation with them and in line with their roles and responsibilities to support improved speed of access to finance and MCMs and identify where gaps remain.
2. Scenario analysis: Regularly updating the Playbook to incorporate scenario analysis on type of pathogen, level of outbreak and availability of MCMs in consultation with wider stakeholders and experts and where possible ensuring consistency of approach with other initiatives.
3. Simulation Exercises: Using the Playbook as a tool for simulation or tabletop exercises to stress-test response financing mechanisms and identify gaps and areas for further development.
4. Interconnectedness of Pandemic PPR: Further develop the interconnection and dependencies between risks and vulnerabilities, preparedness efforts and response financing costs, specifically with reference to the linkages between the Framework for Economic Vulnerabilities and Risks and the Operational Playbook.
5. Gap analysis: Regularly update progress on improving coordination, development in closing response financing gaps and application to current health emergencies.
6. Stakeholder Engagement: disseminating and engaging with a broad range of stakeholders, including G20 and other governments, international organisations, and civil society, to ensure the Playbook remains relevant and effective.

