

Commenter: Madison Featherstone

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**From:** Madison Featherstone [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:03 AM

**To:** Pandemic Fund Consultations <[pandemic\\_fund\\_consultations@worldbank.org](mailto:pandemic_fund_consultations@worldbank.org)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Short-Term Strategic Plan Consultation Input

Dear Pandemic Fund Strategy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Pandemic Fund's Draft Medium-term Strategic Plan. Below are some high-level recommendations we'd like to share for your consideration from ACTION Partners.

### **1.3 First-year retrospective**

- We sincerely appreciate that the Pandemic Fund conducted a Stocktaking Review and has shared out some of the key takeaways and lessons learned. It would be helpful, though, to better understand the results and outcomes of the review beyond the brief information provided in Appendix A. As several members of our Partnership attended the Civil Society and Community Town Hall meeting hosted by GHC in February 2024, we heard several details during the readout of the stocktaking review that are not included in the strategy. It would be helpful to share information on lessons learned so that we as civil society can better contextualize the strategy and the Fund's efforts to improve. Moreover, it would also be useful to understand how input was collected and how the group of over 400 stakeholders was selected.

### **1.4 Unique value proposition**

- The Strategic Plan refers at several points to "the growing need for improved collaboration and coordination among global health organizations in support of country priorities." However, it remains unclear how exactly that will be done. The Fund should clearly articulate what is meant by collaboration and coordination, how that will take shape, and with whom.

### **2.4 Deep dive on underlying themes**

- Regarding PPPR, the support provided by the Fund must contribute, as a matter of priority, to the strengthening of primary and community health systems and benefit firstly the most vulnerable populations, including women and girls. In terms of response, its priorities must include the effective continuity of essential services during crisis time. The Fund should make clear how these priorities are being weighed during the proposal review process.
- We support the adoption of a One Health approach by the Fund. It must lead to a stronger collaboration between sectors at the local, regional, and international levels, in integrating experts in other fields (climate, social sciences, animal health, etc.) within the Technical Advisory Panel. In terms of prevention, the Fund should contribute to strengthening health monitoring systems, including at the community level. It should facilitate collaboration, intel sharing, the regulatory harmonization and provide technical support to governments in the elaboration of their flexible and adaptive emergency plans and response strategy to epidemics.

### **3.3 Allocation modalities**

- Funding modalities of the Fund must respect the principles of additionality, appropriation, transparency, accountability, and equity.

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## **5. Catalyzing additional funding for pandemic PPR**

- The Pandemic Fund must clearly articulate its plans for mobilizing and leveraging new resources outside existing ODA, and how it should be seen as a vehicle for investments from countries at all income levels. It should also define more clearly the way it will scale up private sector funding beyond philanthropic and foundation contributions.

## **6.3 Community and civil society engagement**

- Since the Fund's inception, we have been deeply concerned that its governance structure would exclude critical and central stakeholders from meaningful decision-making, including civil society and affected communities. While we are glad to learn that the Fund is now working to establish a Civil Society Task Force with representatives from the Global North and South and see this as a meaningful step in advancing equity and inclusivity, the Task Force and its members should be established before any resource mobilization plans are developed so that civil society may be consulted in the development of an investment case and resource mobilization strategy.
- We learned during the February Civil Society and Communities Town Hall meeting about the plans to establish the Civil Society Task Force, and yet there is no mention of this Task Force in the Strategic Plan. The Fund should clearly articulate the role of this Task Force and update on its establishment. The Task Force should also have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Strategic Plan.

## **6.4 Transparency and Accountability**

- We welcome the creation of a result framework implementation that the Secretariat will monitor to ensure the follow-up of the activities and implementation of the projects based on predefined indicators. Regarding the proposal to implement an activity evaluation of the Fund in the long term, we suggest that this audit be done by an independent entity outside the World Bank and that it contributes to evaluating the impacts of the Fund on health system strengthening and PPPR. This would distinguish the Fund from other previous mechanisms of the World Bank (PEF, HEPRF) which have never been evaluated.
- Grants should go to countries who accept the requirements for full transparency. They should agree to the online publication of proposals submitted, technical reviews, approved grant agreements, outcomes monitoring, and financial disbursements. The Fund itself must also be fully transparent in its decision-making and funding. Transparency is essential for building trust in the Fund and for providing meaningful information to potential applicants on the criteria and processes the Fund is using to make awards. The Fund should also consider publishing proposals that were not selected, so all stakeholders can understand in which aspects the proposals were found wanting.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our feedback.

Best,

Maddy

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