

The Pandemic Fund, even with its laudable intentions, has important areas for improvement, I mention just two:

1. If it was COVID-19 that highlighted the need to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future epidemics, let's look specifically at four difficulties that countries faced, beyond a theoretical exercise of priority areas.

Biosecurity, infection control and intensive care equipment and supplies, with the obvious component of training in these areas.

Vaccines. Access (including funds to acquire them), paperwork, reliable information. It is clear that the existing mechanisms did not work expeditiously or equitably, such as COVAX, countries did not even know how to apply to obtain vaccines, most had to access direct purchases or use of their own (China, Russia, Brazil, etc.).

The lack of governance in national responses, emergency operations centers established hastily and after the pandemic, their dismantling as if the new post-covid reality did not leave lessons to be learned.

WHO and UNICEF country offices did not have joint containment and response mechanisms, each on its own, trying to respond as best they could to national demands.

No one disputes the importance of Epidemiological Surveillance, Laboratories, or Human Resources, but those areas are covered by Global Health Security initiatives, the logical thing is for the pandemic fund to respond first to what failed, and by correcting it, to be better prepared for the next threats.

2. The governance of the Pandemic Fund must be opened up and include more countries and that all subregions are represented, that it is a more participatory process and that there is a mechanism for participation where it is the countries that help identify where more funding is needed for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

The funding mechanism is a circle that returns the funds to the implementing partners with the logical overhead to each of them. Where is the imprint of the countries in the operation? Local organizations, infinitely better equipped to operate in the field than WHO, UNICEF, International Banking, etc., should be able to be implementing partners.

As perceived, the Pandemic Fund in its structure is probably a well-intentioned elephant, but a bit lost in the savannah.

Most cordially,

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