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The World Bank
1818 H. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
The Pandemic Fund Secretariat
USA

On behalf of the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia, I am reaching out to ask for your continued support for the Pandemic Fund, a global resource focused on preventing, preparing for, and responding to pandemics.

While our countries may face unique health challenges and economic pressures, one thing unites us: the threat of pandemics knows no borders. We are all concerned that the global focus on pandemic prevention is waning just when our commitment is needed most. The reality is that we cannot afford to lose momentum.

Two years ago, in the wake of COVID-19, the world witnessed the devastating loss of millions of lives and a severe economic toll. The creation of the Pandemic Fund was a powerful step toward bridging gaps in global health security. This innovative fund has already proven its value by helping low- and middle-income countries strengthen health systems, enhance disease surveillance, and develop the capabilities needed to respond quickly and effectively to health emergencies.

The impact is clear. The Pandemic Fund has been pivotal in building disease surveillance systems, upgrading laboratories, and training health workers to respond to threats swiftly. However, recent events, such as the rapid spread of mpox, remind us that our work is far from complete. It highlighted weaknesses in our health systems and unequal access to essential services across Africa. In response, the Pandemic Fund quickly mobilized \$129 million to support ten African countries, showcasing its agility and effectiveness in helping to contain the outbreak.

We are aware that governments are under significant fiscal pressure in the post-COVID world. Balancing priorities is difficult, and hard choices must be made. Despite these challenges, our countries are demonstrating their commitment. We are using Pandemic Fund financing to leverage additional resources, generating \$1.50 in domestic and external co-investment for every dollar received. This collaboration highlights our dedication to pandemic preparedness and our belief in shared responsibility.



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Ministry of Health, Ethiopia



@FMoHealth

Yet, we cannot sustain this progress alone. The Pandemic Fund is at a critical point. With resources projected to be depleted by mid-2025, an estimated \$2 billion is needed to support the fund through its next crucial phase (July 2025 - June 2027). Without this investment, the world could slip back into a state of vulnerability and we must avoid the same path, where preventable outbreaks risk becoming global emergencies once again.

Investing in preparedness now is a modest expense compared to the devastating costs of inaction. By acting together, we can save lives, protect economies, and prevent future crises.

I urge you to continue supporting this critical initiative. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that the world is better prepared for whatever comes next.

Thank you for your time and partnership.

Warm regards,



Mekdes Daba (MD, MPH)
Minister

